

New Guinness allegations send shivers through City

Heron chief faces £5.8m theft charge

By Lawrence Lever

The Guinness affair took a dramatic turn yesterday when Mr Gerald Ronson, the billionaire property and garage tycoon, was arrested at Holborn police station and charged with eight offences, including the theft of £5.8 million from Guinness.

In addition, Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was charged with a further 37 charges, including stealing about £20 million from Guinness.

Mr Ronson is the fourth person to face criminal charges arising out of the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers. In the past fortnight, Sir Jack Lyons, the businessman and

patron of the arts, and Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker have both been arrested and charged. Mr Parnes was arrested and held in custody in Los Angeles.

Mr Ronson was remanded on bail last night into the custody of his solicitor and is due to appear at Bow Street Magistrates Court today. He had voluntarily attended Holborn police station at 11 am

Unravelling Guinness...25

yesterday under an arrangement set up between the Fraud Squad and his solicitor.

The implications of the new arrest and charges sent shivers through the stock market, with substantial falls in the share prices of companies connected with Mr Ronson.

The charges against Mr Ronson all relate to his role in the artificial share-price support operation which was used to boost Guinness's share price during the bid for Distillers. This had the effect of increasing the value of Guinness's bid, enabling it to defeat a rival bid from Argyll Group.

Mr Ronson admitted in January to have arranged with Mr Saunders the purchase of £25 million of Guinness shares. After Guinness won control of Distillers, it paid him £5.8 million, representing £800,000 losses he had incurred on the Guinness shares and a £5 million fee.

After the Guinness investigation began last December, Mr Ronson returned the £5.8 million to Guinness, claiming he had not realized at the time that he was doing anything improper or wrong.

The 37 new charges against Mr Saunders were read out at Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday. Mr Saunders faces an extra 10 charges of theft, 10 of false accounting, 10 of procuring the execution of a valuable security, two of common law conspiracy to manipulate market securities, and five of unlawfully enabling Guinness to provide financial assistance in the purchase of shares.

Earlier this year, he was accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice and of two offences of destroying and falsifying documents.

Yesterday he stood in the dock to hear the charges read out, and was bailed to appear again on November 3. A condition of bail is that he surrender his passport, but he could get it back by giving 48 hours' notice to the court, plus the time, date, destination and length of his stay abroad.

Outside the court, Mr Saunders vigorously denied the charges. "The mere idea that I have been putting my hand in the Guinness till is absolutely appalling. I have not stolen anything. I have done nothing and I deny every single one of these charges."

"I feel very bitter about the victimization of my family and I am determined to completely clear my name."

Before he went into the court, Mr Saunders said his wife was still extremely ill. He had hoped to visit her today but had to postpone the trip because of the court hearing.

He continued: "I have absolutely nothing to hide. My conscience is clear. The positioning of myself as a scapegoat is appalling."

The charges against Mr Saunders mention other prominent City institutions which played key roles in the share-price support operation. They include Morgan Grenfell and Henry Ansbacher, the merchant banks, and LF Rothschild, the American financial institution.

One charge accuses him of stealing £1 million from Guinness on December 16 - two weeks after the Department of Trade inspectors moved into Guinness.

Mr Saunders last night protested his innocence and said the hounding he had received since stepping down as chairman and chief executive of Guinness in January, had caused his wife two nervous breakdowns, put his family under intolerable pressure and was threatening to bankrupt him.

"I absolutely deny all the charges that have been leveled against me," he told a small group of journalists at a hastily called press conference at London's Waldorf Hotel.

"Everything I have done for Guinness has been in the interests of shareholders," he said. "I can't, unfortunately, go into the things you'd really like me to go into - the famous transactions and who was supposed to have done what."

He said he wanted to know more than anybody "what the hell has been going on."

Likening his current role to



Gerald Ronson: Charged with stealing £5.8 million

an opening batsman in a one-day cricket match who is expected to deflect googlies at the wicket while the rest of the team rests in the pavilion. Mr Saunders added: "What we can't work out is why there is some determination to make me a scapegoat for everything and why former colleagues should be almost orchestrating a vendetta."

He said that on emerging from court earlier yesterday with 37 fresh charges against him, "someone suggested to me that I take the charge sheet, take 10 photocopies and send

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Ernest Saunders after appearing at Bow Street yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

'Privatize' warning to libraries

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Radical proposals to open public libraries to the private sector and to empower them to charge for some services were unveiled yesterday by Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts.

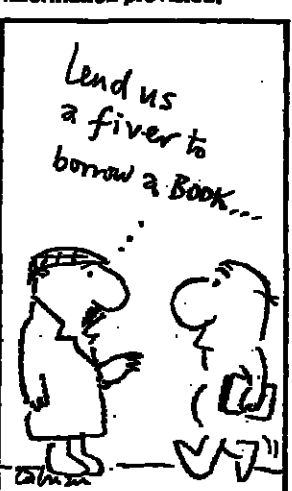
However Mr Luce, who was addressing the annual general meeting of the Library Association, was warned immediately by Mr Max Broome, president of the association, that if public access to free and open information was restricted, "you will have a fight on your hands".

Mr Luce told the meeting that libraries should not be "fossilized". There was a new political and economic climate in which the private sector played an increasingly prominent role. "I cannot, nor should I, protect you from its challenges," he said.

The public purse would continue to fund libraries, and the basic book service would remain free. But new ways would have to be found to finance the new services.

Mr Luce's department said last night that he had not decided which services should be charged for or which should be contracted out. The purpose of his speech was to invite libraries to put forward their own views and ideas.

Earlier, the department suggested that a charge could be introduced on anything from record and cassette lending to information provision.



Britain and Canada calling for unity over South Africa

From Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent, Vancouver

After sharp differences over South Africa between the British and Canadian delegations, Mrs Thatcher yesterday called for unity at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference here.

The Prime Minister said: "We all know the aspects where we disagree and there is nothing to be gained by parading our differences. It is much better that the message that goes out from our meeting is one of positive action."

She said that this should concentrate on aid to the front-line states. Britain was already making "a very substantial contribution".

Mrs Thatcher was replying to the opening speech by the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Brian Mulroney, who also emphasized the need for unity. Neither leader hinted directly at the sharp differences between them during the run-up to the opening.

Mr Mulroney said: "We must seek the widest common ground on apartheid. We are all agreed on the problem, where some of us differ is on the means. But if we are to be effective we must speak with a strong voice."

Red-faced Hawke

backing further sanctions against Pretoria. Canadian officials rejected a British argument that after the last Commonwealth summit in Nassau two years ago, which adopted limited sanctions, Canada's imports from South Africa rose by 45 percent.

They replied that the sanctions approved at Nassau had little impact, but far more effective measures were adopted at a follow-up mini-

summit of seven Commonwealth nations held in London last August.

The Canadians feel that as Britain is South Africa's largest trading partner, it is unworthy for Britain to try to discipline South Africa's efforts.

Further irritation stemmed from Mrs Thatcher's rejection of Mr Mulroney's suggestion that a committee of foreign ministers, possibly including Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, should explore ways of opposing apartheid.

Even President Kaunda of Zambia, Mrs Thatcher's strongest critic, has said that he will not allow a lack of agreement on sanctions to destroy the Commonwealth.

And Mr Sirindho, Rangoon's Secretary-General, said before the opening that "sanctions were not off the boil", at the same time stressing unity.

Thatcher seeks £700m cut in Whitehall costs

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Cabinet ministers have been ordered by the Prime Minister to take the axe to their departments' running costs in a new move to improve the efficiency of government and cut out bureaucratic waste.

They have been asked to draw up three-year efficiency plans in an attempt to cut the soaring cost of government administration by around £700 million.

Ministers have been urged to find economies in their departments' running costs of 1.5 per cent a year for each of the next three years.

The move is a hitherto undisclosed part of this year's public expenditure round, which reaches its annual climax this week when Lord Whitehall's "Star Chamber" meets to consider disputes unresolved between ministers and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr John Major.

The Treasury received the Prime Minister's enthusiastic backing for the plan when the Cabinet in July settled its attitude to this year's public spending discussions and decided yet again to keep a tight rein by sticking as close as possible to the planned target of £154.2 billion.

Now approaching £15 billion, departmental running costs represent almost 10 per cent of all public expenditure.

That is regarded as unacceptably high by Treasury ministers who have made the Ministry of Defence the prime target of their cost cutting exercise.

The move is additional to the scrutinies done first by Lord Rayner, and now by Sir Robin Ibbotson, to achieve value for money economies through the Government's efficiency unit.

But the ambitious scale of new plan is illustrated by the fact that their exercises, over seven years, have so far resulted in savings of £300 million with a further £240 million of economies under consideration. The new Treasury target would, if achieved, result in savings of more than £225 million in each of the three years.

Several ministers have already produced their efficiency plans.

It was made plain from the outset that if they achieved savings they would not be able to spend the money on other parts of their programme. The aim is to make a contribution to the Government's continuing aim of reducing public expenditure as a proportion of gross national product.

It is understood that so far Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, has not submitted his own plans.

These are awaited with interest by the Treasury which has singled out the Ministry of Defence as the worst culprit on wastefulness. Out of the ministry's total public expenditure for 1987-88 of £18.8 billion, some £5.1 billion is earmarked for running costs, although that includes the pay

Continued on page 24, col 7

Jaffna is ringed by Indians

From Michael Hamlyn
Colombo

A grim determination to fight to the finish on both sides of the battle lines in Jaffna town was apparent last night as the Indian Army inched slowly towards the centre of the built-up area from four different directions.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo last night declared that no ceasefire terms were being offered to the beleaguered guerrillas. It said: "We are taking measures to restore peace."

Sri Lankan sources said that privately the Indians are determined to end the power

Tamil leader profile...12

of Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the group of separatist terrorists whose massacres of civilians in the Eastern province sparked the present offensive.

One said: "They expect to finish the campaign by the weekend."

The house-to-house fighting in the densely populated area is taking a heavy toll of casualties. Officially the High Commission admits that 27 Indian troops have been killed in the past four days and 141

Continued on page 24, col 3

IN PART 2

Delivery 'gap'

Royal Mail deliveries for commercial users lack reliability and fall markedly short of claimed performance levels. Says a survey by the Mail Users' Association...Page 25

England slip

England's cricketers let valuable points slip from their grasp when Pakistan beat them by 18 runs in the World Cup one-day tournament in Rawalpindi...Page 48

Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio Gold competition was shared by two readers. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 29.

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Lloyd's broker charges

Further charges will be laid against the former chairman and four former underwriters of Alexander Howden, the Lloyd's insurance broking firm, who are already accused of theft and conspiracy. Guildhall magistrates heard yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Grob, the former chairman, of Eaton Square, Belgrave, is charged with stealing £135,910. The

other men are Mr Ian Fosgate, the former Lloyd's underwriter, of Clarendon Road, Notting Hill; Mr Jack Carpenter, former deputy chairman, of Rickmans Lane, Billingshurst, West Sussex; Mr Allen Page, former finance director, of Kings Road, Brighton; and Mr Colin Hart, a former underwriter, of Ellenden Farm, Foxes Cross, Whitstable, Kent.

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

British Aerospace has developed a "lifeboat" capable of rescuing up to six astronauts in space and returning them safely to earth.

The company unveiled a model of the rescue capsule at the annual meeting of the International Federation of Astronauts in Brighton yesterday.

Mr Buzz Aldrin, one of the first astronauts to land on the moon, gave the project his spontaneous and wholehearted endorsement.

The device, called a multi-role capsule, is the brainchild of two of British Aerospace's engineers, Dr Robert Parkinson and Mr Mark Hempsell.

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

purposes, but the company is pinning its first hopes on meeting the needs of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The American agency wants to attach rescue craft, like lifeboats, to a permanent space station due to start operating after 1994.

The station will be manned permanently by eight people. If its air supply system is damaged, rescue craft will be needed to ferry the crew home.

Similarly, if an astronaut is taken ill, say with acute appendicitis, the vehicle would become an emergency ambulance back to earth.

Nasa is expected to invite bids soon for three \$10-million contracts for a first-stage investigation into possible rescue capsules.

The craft can be used for several

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

manned space flight centre at Houston, said yesterday that he expected invitations to go out before the end of the year.

He indicated that pressure for a space "lifeboat" and a "bale-out" ejector system had come from Nasa's own astronauts after the Challenger disaster.

Mr Cohen said an emergency ejection system would be installed when the shuttle resumed launches, which he predicted would begin next June.

Nasa estimates the rescue vehicles fitted to the permanent space station could cost about \$80 million each. Involvement with an American partner is therefore likely to be necessary.

Dr Parkinson said the British Aerospace capsule could carry four

Iraq promises new war of the cities

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

Iraq last night promised to take its revenge on Tehran after an Iranian ground-to-ground Scud missile exploded on a primary school in the suburbs of Baghdad, killing at least 29 children and three adults and wounding 228 other civilians, almost a hundred of them critically.

The rocket, the fourth long-range missile to be fired at the Iraqi capital in a week, was aimed - according to the defence Ministry but landed 12 miles from its target on the Martyrs' Place primary school, where dozens of children under 10 were gathering for morning classes.

The Iraqis, who recently resumed using chemical weapons against the Iranians, immediately capitalized on what they were quick to describe as an example of Iranian bestiality.

Western diplomats were

taken to the wreckage of the school building as the bodies of the children were dragged from the rubble amid scenes of family grief, and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry publicized the message of condolence from King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt.

Iraq's official comment on the missile attack was couched in terms that the protagonists once used about each other in the First World War. It was, the Baghdad Government said, "Iraq's right and duty to reply to this heinous crime. They want a war of the cities and they will get it."

However, such rhetoric and retaliation have signally failed to have any effect on the two belligerents in the seven years of the Gulf War and yesterday's attack will only serve to put back any residual chances of a ceasefire.

Navy finds mines, page 8

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NEWS SUMMARY

Ship's surveyors criticized work

Lloyd's surveyors were unhappy with the welding and workmanship on the bulk carrier *Derbyshire*, the public inquiry into her sinking was told yesterday by the lawyer representing relatives of the 44 who died when she foundered in the Pacific seven years ago.

The *Derbyshire* was one of five sister ships built at Haverton Hill yard, Teesside. Under cross-examination on the sixth day of the inquiry in London, Mr George Hodgson, who was in charge of welding at the yard, said he had received no complaints from the surveyors during building. He was proud of the standard of workmanship. The inquiry continues today.

Boy gets 7 years

A boy who attacked his deputy headmaster with a roofing hammer in a planned assault was sentenced to seven years' detention yesterday.

The boy, aged 14, hit Mr Christopher Githam, aged 55, so hard that the hammer was embedded in his skull. Liverpool Crown Court heard.

Judge Campbell sentenced another boy, aged 15, who helped to plan the assault in the toilets of Priory Community Comprehensive, Anfield, to five-and-a-half years in detention.

Family's legal win

The parents of John Williams, who died five years ago after being injected with a painkilling drug, won an unprecedented legal victory yesterday when, at a third inquest, they succeeded in having his death certificate altered by Dr John Harte, the Bedfordshire coroner, to record that he died from a drugs overdose.

Last year a jury at St Albans Crown Court convicted Gary Austin, from Stockwell, south London, of the manslaughter of John, aged 19. He was jailed for 15 months.

Pupil must walk

The law lords have refused permission for the parents of a Devon schoolboy to appeal to the House of Lords against a ruling that he is not entitled to free transport for his 5½-mile return trip between home and school.

Mr Justice Mann, sitting in the High Court on April 13, upheld Devon County Council's decision not to provide free transport for Christopher George, aged nine, of Thornbury, near Holdsworth, north Devon, saying that a normal healthy boy of his age should be able to walk.

Owen's rally

Dr David Owen said last night that an important reason for resisting merger with the Liberals was that as Social Democrats he and other MPs in the party stood a better chance of retaining seats that had once been held by Labour.

Addressing a rally for his fledgling Campaign for Social Democracy in Islington, north London, the former SDP leader asserted that the alliance of his party with the Liberals had been a success.

Smaller harvest

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, disclosed yesterday that this year's cereals harvest is expected to total 21.14 million tonnes, rather than 23 million tonnes as originally forecast.

He said a consultation document encouraging farmers to reduce their production of cereals would be issued soon.

The common agricultural policy had to be redirected to achieve genuine reductions in surplus production, he said.

Heavyweight rescue

A grandmother weighing 37 stone was recovering in hospital yesterday after ambulance officers took more than three hours to move her from her house.

It was the second time that Mrs Sylvia Leysen, aged 43, who complained of stomach pains, had been rescued from her home by emergency crews.

Last year fire officers had to rip out part of the front wall of her house in Louisa Place, Cardiff, because she was too big to go through the front door.

American order boosts Britain's 'mini airliner'

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

British Aerospace yesterday won an £80 million deal with the American airline Wings West for up to 30 Jetstream "mini airliners".

The Americans will buy 15 of the 19-seat commuter aircraft, to operate in the highly competitive western states, with the option to buy a further 15 if the expected growth in traffic materializes.

The Jetstream is British Aerospace's main money spinner in its loss making civil aircraft division. Nearly 200 of the twin turbo-prop aircraft

have been sold worldwide, most to the United States. About 70 per cent of the aircraft, in value terms, is made in Britain, although the engine is an American built Garrett because Rolls-Royce has nothing available to fit.

Wings West, which operates in close partnership with American Airlines, recently bought 10 68-seat British Aerospace ATP turbo props and said yesterday that the Jetstream "stood in a class by itself". No American built rival could compete with its efficiency in the hot and mountainous areas of California and Nevada.

The civil division of British Aerospace lost £49 million in the first six months of this year, largely because of the dollar exchange rate changes and losses on the Airbus and the four engine jet, the 146.

The Jetstream, however, is now making money, both in direct costs and in repaying the long term investment, and is seen as the aircraft to spearhead the division's return to profitability.

● An erratic defence communications satellite which provided Britain with essential data during the Falklands campaign has come to the end

of its useful life (Sheila Gunn writes).

SkyNet 2B, launched in 1974, is drifting into the earth's atmosphere, where it will eventually burn up. It was never an overwhelming success, largely because its orbit proved impossible to control.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday: "It never worked very well because it kept bobbing about. It is very difficult to get hold of on the radio and we do not get a very reliable service out of it. It is at the end of its useful life now."

Once its controllers learnt its moods they were able to

make use of it at certain times when the aerial was facing in the right direction, and the ministry recognizes that it provided a "valuable communications link" with the south Atlantic during the Falklands campaign.

The life of such satellites is usually about seven years, and SkyNet 2B is something of a veteran at more than 13 years old. It was part of a satellite programme which began with the launch in 1969 of SkyNet 1A, which was in service for only two years. Its successors SkyNet 1B and 2A were both lost because of rocket motor failure, and in 1975 the pro-

gramme was scrapped in favour of American or Nato satellites.

Lack of room on other nations' space hardware has led to plans for a new generation of SkyNet 4s, but their launch has been dogged by the American space shuttle disaster and problems with the Ariane launching system. The first of the SkyNet 4s is not expected to be carried into space until November next year.

Eventually the ministry, which spends £100 million a year on space projects, hopes to have four SkyNets circling the earth.

Industry policy will concentrate on smaller businesses

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

A drive to improve the quality and marketing of goods made by small to medium sized British companies will be at the centre of the Government's revised trade and industry policy, announced yesterday.

The Department of Trade and Industry is to lead an offensive to ensure that Britain's interests and standards "win" by the time a single European market is created in 1992.

Details of the reviewed aims and objectives of the department are unlikely to be complete before Easter but the need for companies to improve product design and quality, create better links with schools, and encourage management and business education are being given high priority by Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

He aims to improve morale at the department by marketing and advertising the positive assistance it can give industry, in the hope that this will rid it of its image of existing to help lame duck industries. Lord Young said yesterday that British industry was having its best time for decades and "we see it as our

task to help this go on its way".

The department would not produce grand strategic plans but would encourage companies to employ more consultants and seek better help in such areas, he said.

Companies with a turnover of between £1 million and £10 million would get particular attention. "The large companies know what this department offers, but the small to medium firms have not got the time to divert people to find out. We want to reach out to them to help them improve marketing design and quality control."

"It is not 'Listen to big daddy government' but encouraging firms to pay attention to design and quality. I hope we will be in the future going out to firms much more to say: 'Hey, if you don't improve your design or get very much better quality you are in danger of losing your markets'."

Lord Young denied that the review was part of a cost cutting exercise, but his proposals were dismissed by the Labour Party as the final abandonment of an industrial strategy in favour of rhetoric.

Mr Bryan Gould, the Opposition trade and industry spokesman, said: "Mrs Thatcher has got through seven secretaries of state for trade and industry. Now she has found her ideal who believes the department should do nothing and is eager for further cuts in a budget which has already been slashed by more than a half."

Lord Young's plans were greeted by Civil Servants yesterday as "more of the same" (David Walker writes).

Sources pointed out that, before Lord Young was appointed Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in June, the expenditure of the department had declined from £3.3 billion in 1981-82 to an estimated expenditure of £1.2 billion this year. Projections published in January show the department's outlays decreasing to £1 billion by the end of the decade.

Regional development grants and general support for industry declined in value from £761 million in 1981-82 to £277 million in 1986-87, and sources said that further savings would have to come from support for research and development.

Young warns his opponents

Lord Young of Graffham said yesterday that the battle to prevent him becoming the next chairman of the Conservative Party could force the Prime Minister to appoint him whether she wants to or not (Our Political Correspondent writes).

He said the question of the party chairmanship was still hypothetical. The Prime Minister had not raised the matter.

He had not asked for the job, but said that if his opponents were not careful Mrs Thatcher might be forced to appoint him.

Referring to the behind-the-scenes conflict about the chairmanship, he added: "I keep reading even the bizarre suggestion that I want to be deputy prime minister... that this is really about the succession."

Opponents of Lord Young becoming party chairman have suggested that the scale of reorganization needed at the Central Office could not be combined with so arduous a Cabinet portfolio as trade and industry.

Lord Young said he would consider whether he could do both jobs if and when he were offered the chairmanship by the Prime Minister.

Sinn Fein candidates scorn oath

Two Sinn Fein candidates in next week's Belfast City Council by-elections yesterday poured scorn on the Government's plan to make local politicians take an anti-violence pledge.

Mr Frank McCann and Mr Martin O'Muileir said that such a pledge would not deter them from standing for office to represent the nationalist community.

Mr O'Muileir said that the pledge was hypothetical, but if it came into force he would have no difficulty in making the declaration. A government discussion paper issued on Monday suggests that candidates in local government and assembly elections should declare and undertake that if elected they would neither support nor assist the activities of any organization proscribed by law in Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein is fighting two seats in the republican districts of Upper and Lower Falls, vacated by Alliance councillors.

● An Ulster businessman was recovering yesterday after being tortured and burnt in his home at Ballyhalbert, near Bangor. Co Down, by three robbers one of them disguised as a policeman. Mr George Donnon, aged 37, had three fingers broken when the gang took goods worth more than £40,000.

'Racist' job survey defended by MSC

By Tim Jones

The Manpower Services Commission yesterday defended its decision to carry out an ethnic survey of Job Centres which has been condemned by Britain's biggest Civil Service union as a "racist exercise".

Civil and Public Services Association members at 23 of the 111 offices where the survey is being conducted have decided from today to strike until the exercise finishes in 10 days.

The commission is hoping that in spite of the action, the offices, 22 in London and one at Toxteth, Liverpool, will remain open.

Mr David Jones, a spokesman for the union, said members were also disillusioned because there had been no tangible benefit from a similar survey conducted last year "allegedly to improve the service for ethnic minorities".

He added: "One of the union's main demands for more staff to be employed to give a proper service to these people was ignored because of government cut-backs."

Mr Jones added that many union members thought that such an exercise would cause particular harm in sensitive inner city areas.

The commission denied that the "ongoing" survey had any racial connotations and said it helped to determine whether employees were guilty of prejudice in their recruitment policies.

A spokeswoman said the survey, which was voluntary, was designed to discover what people of Asian or Afro-Caribbean origin, or white people thought of the Job Centres and how they thought its services could be improved.

● A founder member of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers said yesterday he had no intention of "defending" himself against moves to expel him from the Labour Party to which he has belonged for 15 years.

Accusations that Mr David Prendergast "discredited" the party will be laid next month.

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Actor's head injury puzzle

Simon Ward, the actor, is recovering after an emergency operation for head injuries thought to have been sustained in an attack or an accident.

Mr Ward, aged 45, said yesterday that he could remember practically nothing about the incident which took place two weeks ago.

"I think I got home and opened the sitting room door of our flat when I was struck upon the head", his wife, Alexandra, said. "I found Simon unconscious on the drawing room floor. I thought he had fainted but I put it down to tiredness and stress. Later I thought that he might have fallen over."

Police have been called in to investigate.

World chess championship

Sturdy defence marks passive clash

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

The first game in the world chess championship in Seville, Spain, was drawn on Monday after 30 moves. Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, drew the advantage of playing White but could make little impression on Gary Kasparov's sturdy defence.

The opening was a Grünfeld defence which duplicated that of game 13 from their match a year ago. Kasparov varied from his handling of that game with an improved twelfth

move, but Karpov still seemed to establish a slight edge based on his superior control of space in the centre and on the King's flank.

Around moves 16 and 17 Karpov began to play passively. The logical course would have been to attack against the Black King by playing the move g4. Instead, the former champion systematically transferred his pieces to the other side of the board.

Between moves 22 and 24 Kasparov appeared to invite a draw by repetition of position.

Karpov at first rejected this tacit peace offer by an energetic twenty-fifth move but soon afterwards Karpov had to acquiesce in sharing the point.

Before this game Karpov had announced that Kasparov's accusations against him in his new autobiography, *Child of Change*, had stoked up his anger to just the right degree to play optimally aggressive chess, but this first game saw little evidence of such aggression.

The second game will be

today with Kasparov playing White.

Monday's moves:
White Black 16 Rf1 Bf6
1 d4 Nf6 17 Bf3 Rf7
2 c4 e6 18 Bg3 Rf8
3 g3 e5 19 Qd2 Nc6
4 Nf3 Bg7 20 Qd2 a6
5 Bg2 c5 21 Bc2 Qe7
6 cxd5 cxd5 22 Nf1 Nd4
7 Nc3 d4 23 Nc3 Nc5
8 Nf5 e6 24 Rf1 Nd4
9 d4 Nf7 25 Rf5 Nd7
10 f4 Nc6 26 Rf7 Rf7
11 Bc3 Nc6 27 Nc3 Nc6
12 Bf2 Bf7 28 Nf1 Nd4
13 e4 Nf7 29 Nc3 Nc6
14 Nxd7 Qx7 30 Nf1
15 e5 Rf8 Draw agreed

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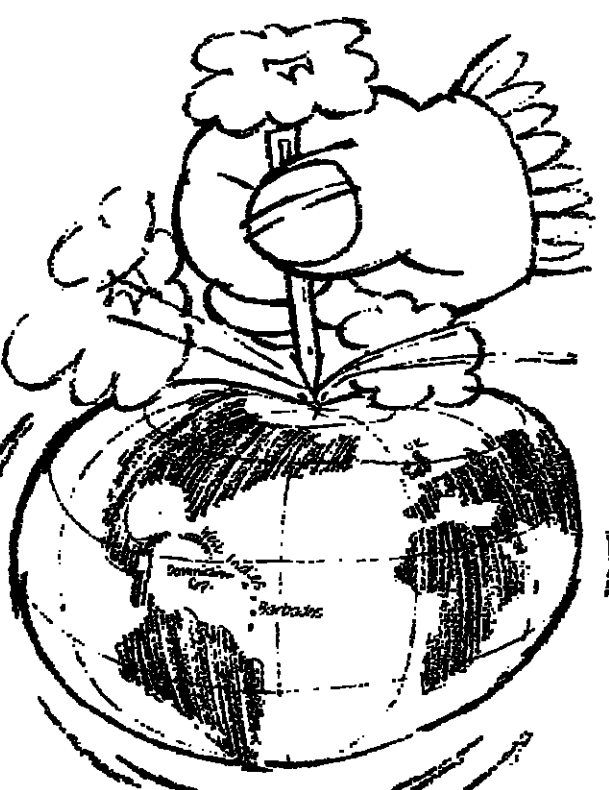
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Recruits gassed and beaten with bats, court martial is told

By Craig Seton

An army drill sergeant put an ammunition bag over a recruit's head and forced him to kneel over burning CS gas pellets because he had failed a locker inspection, a court martial was told yesterday.

Sergeant David Miller, aged 33, a general instructor with The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, also laughed as a corporal beat soldiers on their bare buttocks with a baseball bat after they had been locked in a room without respirators as CS gas was set off.

The court martial, at Tern Hill Barracks, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, heard that on another occasion the sergeant and a lieutenant stood by as Corporal Bart Thomas, of the Royal Regiment of Wales, hit recruits with a baseball bat during a mattress inspection.

Sergeant Miller, based at The Prince of Wales's Division depot, at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire, has denied six charges contrary to the Army Act between January and May last year.

He faces two charges of failing to prevent ill-treatment of soldiers subject to his control as a platoon sergeant. He is also charged with ill-treating Private Simon Freeth by placing a bag over his head and exposing him to CS gas; kicking Private Andrew Beardmore, striking another soldier with a peace stick; and improperly exposing soldiers under his control to CS gas without the protection of respirators.

Private Beardmore, aged 19, of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, who is serving 28 days in Army custody for being absent without leave for

a fourth time, said he was at the Lichfield barracks when Private Freeth had an ammunition bag placed over his head by Sergeant Miller for failing a locker inspection.

He said Sergeant Miller forced the young soldier to kneel and then ignited CS gas pellets in an ash tray which he pushed underneath the private's face.

He said: "Freeth was getting panicky. He was coughing. When he was released he went to the window to get some fresh air. His eyes were watering and burning." Corporal Thomas and a Lieutenant Peter O'Sullivan were present but did not take part.

Private Beardmore said that during a visit to the Warley close quarter army range in Cumbria last year, recruits from Sergeant Miller's Platoon were locked in an accommodation building by Corporal Thomas, who took away their respirators and



Sergeant Miller, who denies ill-treating young soldiers.

then set off CS gas he had brought in. "We were gassed. We crowded round small windows and tried to breathe that way."

Twenty minutes later, he said, recruits were called one by one into an adjoining room. "We were told to take down our trousers and underpants. We were forced to bend over a table individually and then hit by Corporal Thomas with a baseball bat on the rear. Sergeant Miller was laughing in the background. He was joking with Lieutenant O'Sullivan."

Asked by Mr Lee Masters, civilian counsel for Sergeant Miller, why he did not complain, Private Beardmore said: "There was too much risk of revenge." He agreed he was not happy in the Army and he had been absent without leave four times, including one escape from custody, but denied that his allegations were to excuse his own behaviour.

He also said that when 40 recruits were lined up in a corridor at the Lichfield barracks for a mattress inspection, Sergeant Miller stood by as Corporal Thomas walked up and down swinging a baseball bat. Seven or eight recruits were hit as they held mattresses in front of them. He had been hit once in the stomach.

Under cross-examination he said he did not complain because he assumed it was normal treatment in the Army.

Private Sean Thomas, now stationed in Northern Ireland, told the court martial he was among those punched during the mattress inspection.

The hearing continues today.

Hyde Park bomb trial told of cache Woodland dustbins hid IRA explosives

An IRA explosives cache containing the fingerprints of Gilbert McNamee, the alleged Hyde Park bomber, was found by chance in a Berkshire wood, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, said Mr Timothy Sheldon, an estate worker, stumbled upon "one of the most comprehensive collections of terrorist equipment ever discovered in Britain".

In a statement, Mr Sheldon described how he and Mr Derek Turner, a colleague, spotted the lid of a buried plastic dustbin as they cleared woodland on the Hardwick Estate, Pangbourne, Berkshire, in October 1983.

"The first thing I saw were two Adidas bags," he said. "I removed them and saw a large coil of wire and a plastic bag which contained cassettes with batteries. I realized they were some sort of detonating device and returned them. I saw two walkie-talkie radios wrapped in cotton wool."

Thames Valley Police were alerted and the Army and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad called in. A second bin containing bomb-making materials was found near by.

Mr McNamee, aged 26, an electrician, of Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, has denied conspiring to cause explosions in the United Kingdom between January 1982 and January 1984 — including the Hyde Park attack, which killed four men of the Household Cavalry on July 20, 1982.

The Irishman is said to have constructed the remote control bomb detonated by radio as the cavalrymen rode by.

Det Sergeant Ian McLeod, of Scotland Yard, told the



A police marksman taking up his position outside the Central Criminal Court yesterday, where the IRA suspect, Mr Gilbert McNamee, was on trial. (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

and deadly campaign of violence.

An unexploded bomb bearing Mr McNamee's fingerprints was found by a passer-by, Mr James Kearns, on the pavement in Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, on December 13, 1983, the court was told.

In a statement read to the court, Mr Kearns said he told

a traffic warden about a suspicious bag. He looked inside, saw wires and called the police.

Mr David Horne, the Scotland Yard explosives officer who rendered the device safe by a controlled explosion, said it would have caused injury and probably death if it had gone off.

The trial continues today.

Portfolio Gold Winners to replace their cars

There are likely to be new cars for the two winners of The Times Portfolio Gold competition, Mr Alan Hackwill and Mrs Vanda Stephenson, who share the £4,000 prize.

Mr Hackwill, aged 71, a retired oil company manager, of Napleton, Stoke Newington, Exeter, said he had been considering replacing his car, so the win was timely.

It is the first time Mr Hackwill, a reader of The Times for 40 years, has won anything and he will be taking out his wife, Joan, to celebrate.

Mrs Stephenson, of Madeley, Hereford, who is married to a semi-retired airline pilot, also had a car in mind when she was told of her win. The family car was getting a bit elderly, she said, so the money could go towards a new one.

It was also the boost she needed to help her over a bout of 48-hour flu. Mrs Stephenson said she has a daughter, Paula, who is studying for a second degree at The London Hospital and a son, Ewan, who is an electronics engineer in Germany.

Portfolio cards can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Poem protest

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the television clean-up campaigner, has written to the Home Secretary demanding the resignation of Lord Thomson of Monifieth as chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority because of its decision to allow the transmission of a poem recital containing a stream of obscenities.

Fordingbridge murder trial

'Family dead before fire'

By Michael Horsnell

One of the men accused of killing members of the Cleaver family at a country house in Fordingbridge, Hampshire, allegedly told police he believed the victims were already dead when he threw lighted firelighters at them.

George Daly said he had been told that they were dead by his co-defendant, George Stephenson, former handyman to the Cleaver family.

Mr Daly, aged 25, said the killings at Burgate House resulted from a robbery which went wrong.

Tape recordings of interviews allegedly given by Mr Daly, an unemployed man from Coventry, shortly after the killings in September last year, were played to the jury on the seventh day of the trial at Winchester Crown Court.

Mr Daly said in the alleged interview: "No one was meant to get hurt, no one should have got hurt. When Stephenson told me to burn everyone, everyone in my mind was dead and to burn it just

seemed like the only way not to get caught."

Mr Joseph Cleaver, a retired publisher, and his invalid wife, Hilma, both aged 82, their son, Thomas, aged 47, and Mrs Margaret Murphy, aged 70, the family nurse, were burnt alive at their home on September 1, 1986. Mrs Wendy Cleaver, aged 46, Thomas Cleaver's wife, was allegedly strangled after being raped by the three defendants.

Mr Stephenson, who lived in a flat in the grounds of the Cleaver home, and George Daly, of Deedmore Road, Coventry, deny the murders, rape and killings. John Daly, aged 21, also of Deedmore Road, Coventry, has admitted rape and robbery.

Describing in his taped interview the burning of four of the victims, George Daly allegedly continued: "I was half way up the stairs and I threw it into the bedroom where the four people were. When I threw it, it just went up in a big flash. The petrol

flames that had gone into the air came out as a roll of flame."

Earlier Mr Daly had broken down as he described the rape of Wendy Cleaver. He said Mr Stephenson had taken her out of the master bedroom where the others were.

When he reappeared he was carrying a shotgun and "said something about we all had to do it". Mr Daly said that although he got on the bed he felt sick and did not know whether he had also committed rape.

Then, Mr Daly allegedly told police, his "little brother John" went into the room with Mr Stephenson but came back crying.

Mr Daly, who allegedly told detectives that he had tried not to hurt the family when he tied them up, added: "When we went to the house I thought it was just to get money, bits and bobs, and leave them alone in peace".

The case continues today.

Rioters 'tried to smoke out staff'

By Kerry Gill

Rioting inmates tried to smoke out prison officers trapped in a cell at Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow High Court was told yesterday.

The officers smashed the windows in cell 514 to get air and broke pipes for water to cook blankets, Mr George MacKay said.

A blazing mattress was pushed against the cell door and when that failed to smoke out the five officers, the rioters tried to break down the door using bed ends and shouted: "We are going to kill you".

On trial are David Dickson, Hugh Michael Twigg, Peter Cocherane and Allan Dixon McLeish, of Barlinnie Prison, David Cocherane, of Aberdeen Prison, William Marshall, of Peterhead Prison, Stephen McCartney and John Barrie, of Perth Prison, and John Arthur Downes, of Saughton Prison, Edinburgh.

All nine deny 39 charges arising from the siege which lasted from January 5 to January 10, this year, including mobbing, rioting and the attempted murder of 112 prison officers and three firemen.

Two other men, John Whyte, of Elbank Street, Glasgow, and Duncan Kirk Jonsone, of Fowey Hall, Fowey, Cornwall, who did not answer bail, have had warrants issued for their arrest.

Mr MacKay, aged 45, said he and three colleagues went into the cell on January 5 after barricades blocked their escape from the third floor and prisoners started hurling missiles.

The officers were later joined by a colleague, Mr John Kearney, who had been struck by a bed.

About 20 officers in riot gear entered the hall to try to rescue the trapped men and quell the trouble.

The next day the prisoners were able to grab one of the officers, Mr David Flanagan, who was beaten with a stick. Mr MacKay said.

The trial continues today.

Cleveland doctors praised

The doctors involved in the Cleveland child sexual abuse controversy received strong support yesterday.

Dr Peter Morrell, a consulting paediatrician, paid glowing tributes to Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, his colleagues at Middlesbrough General Hospital.

He told the inquiry into the affair that Dr Higgs's clinical ability was "beyond reproach".

He said that Dr Wyatt's tireless enthusiasm had "transformed" the care given to children in Cleveland.

The doctors have been accused of being cold and unsympathetic to parents of suspected sexual abuse victims but Dr Morrell said they were very caring and compassionate towards families.

Dr Isabel Grant, one of the four child doctors at Middlesbrough General Hospital, told the inquiry that she had happily referred some of her patients to Dr Higgs.

The inquiry continues.

Bible may top world record

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Christie's is drumming up interest in a Gutenberg Bible, the first substantial printed book, by sending it on a whistle-stop world tour.

The fifteenth-century volume was coveted in Tokyo, has been on show in London over the past two days and will be returned to New York for sale on October 23.

The bible, comprising the First Testament from Genesis to Psalms, comes from the Estelle Doherty collection of rare books, estimated to fetch

\$20 million from six sales over the next 18 months.

Mrs Doherty, the wife of an American oil magnate, was a devout Catholic and philanthropist. She left the books to the St John's Seminary in Los Angeles on her death in 1958, with the option that the seminary could sell after 25 years.

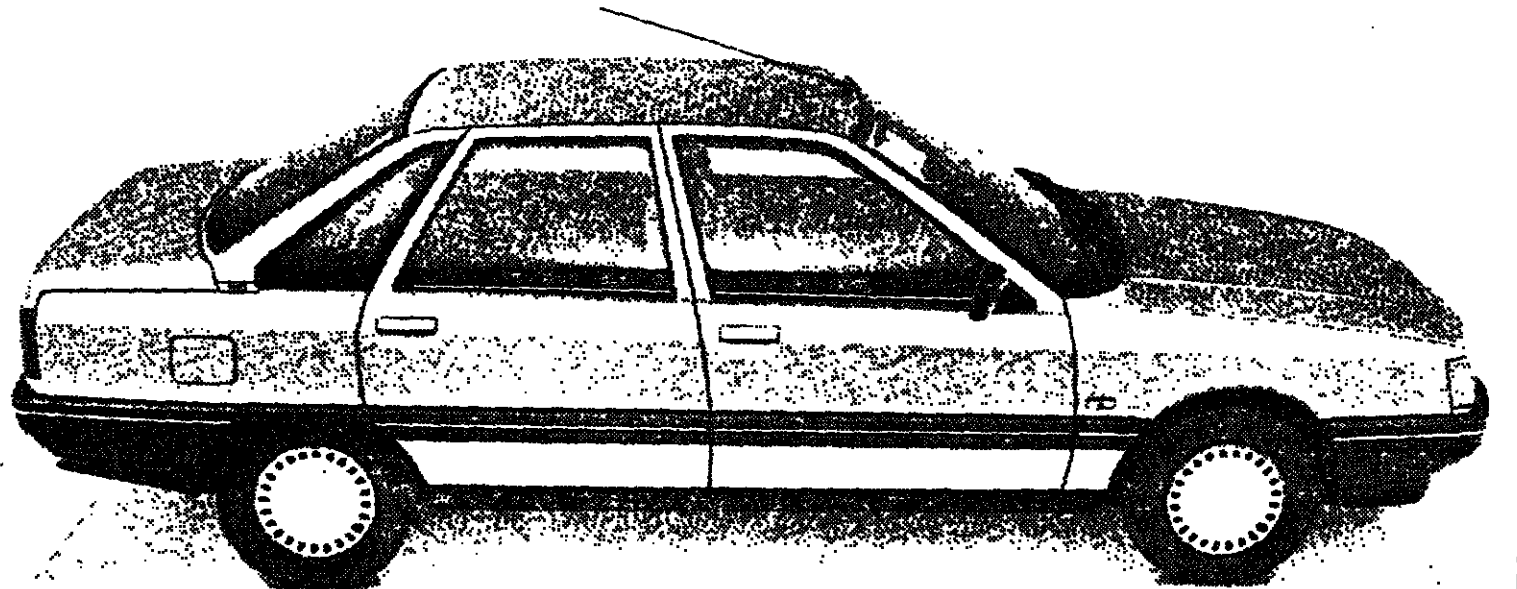
Mr Stephen Massey, Christie's book expert, said: "In

some respects it's very sad they decided to turn the paper into cash. But you can understand the reason why when you think of the problems facing the priesthood."

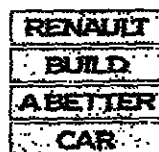
The bible, in its original leather binding and protective steds, is in excellent condition. Its vellum pages turn with a satisfactory crispness; its individually-painted illuminations are colour fresh.

Mr Massey thinks its price may top the world record for a bible, \$2.2 million for another Gutenberg, both Old and New Testaments, sold by Christie's in 1978.

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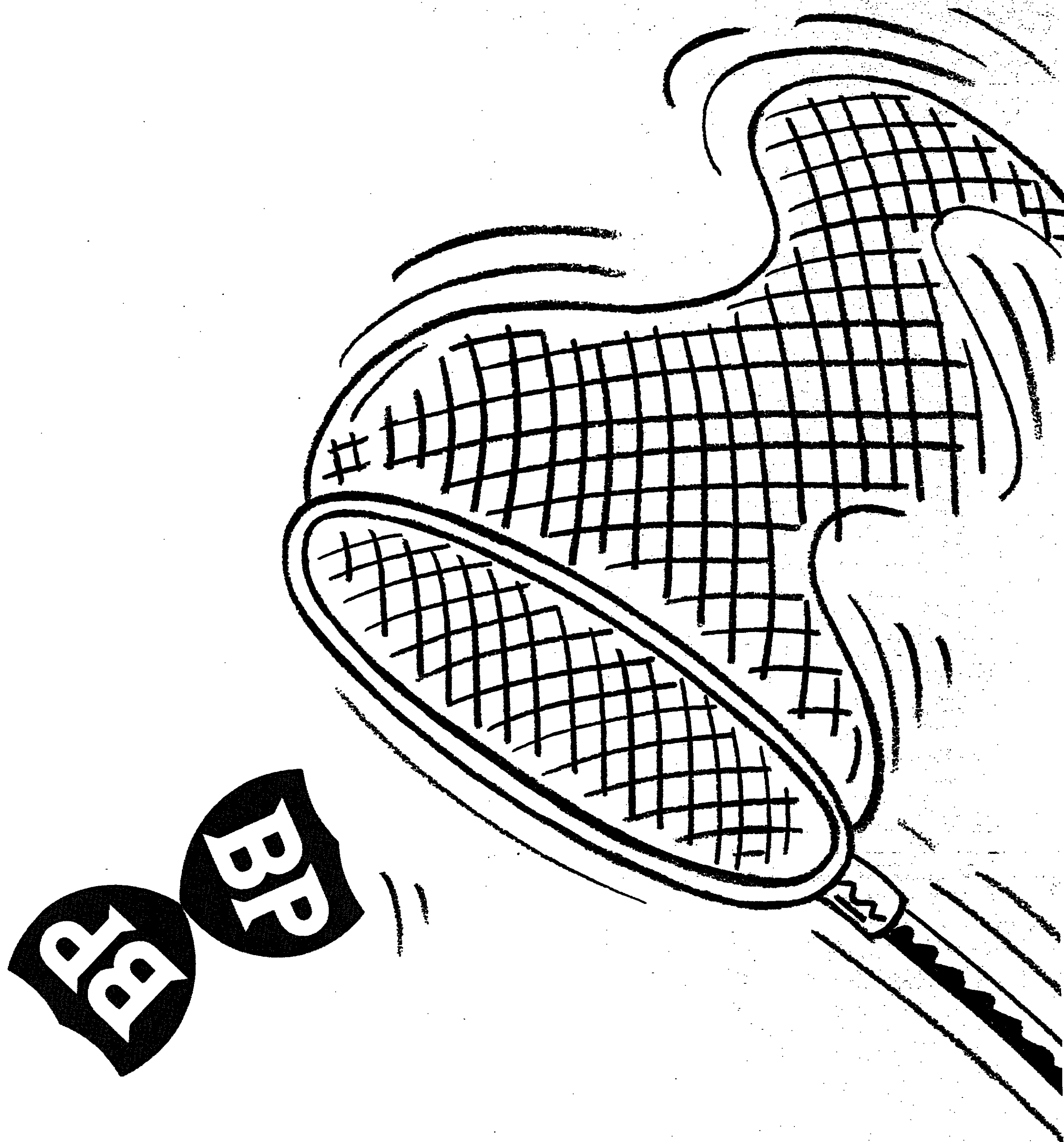
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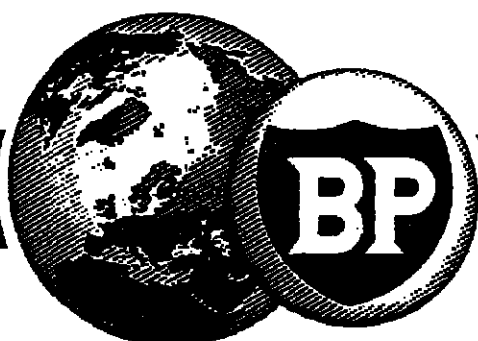
Tuesday, October 20th. And you'll have until 10.00am on October 28th to buy the Government's remaining shares in BP on the special Offer terms.

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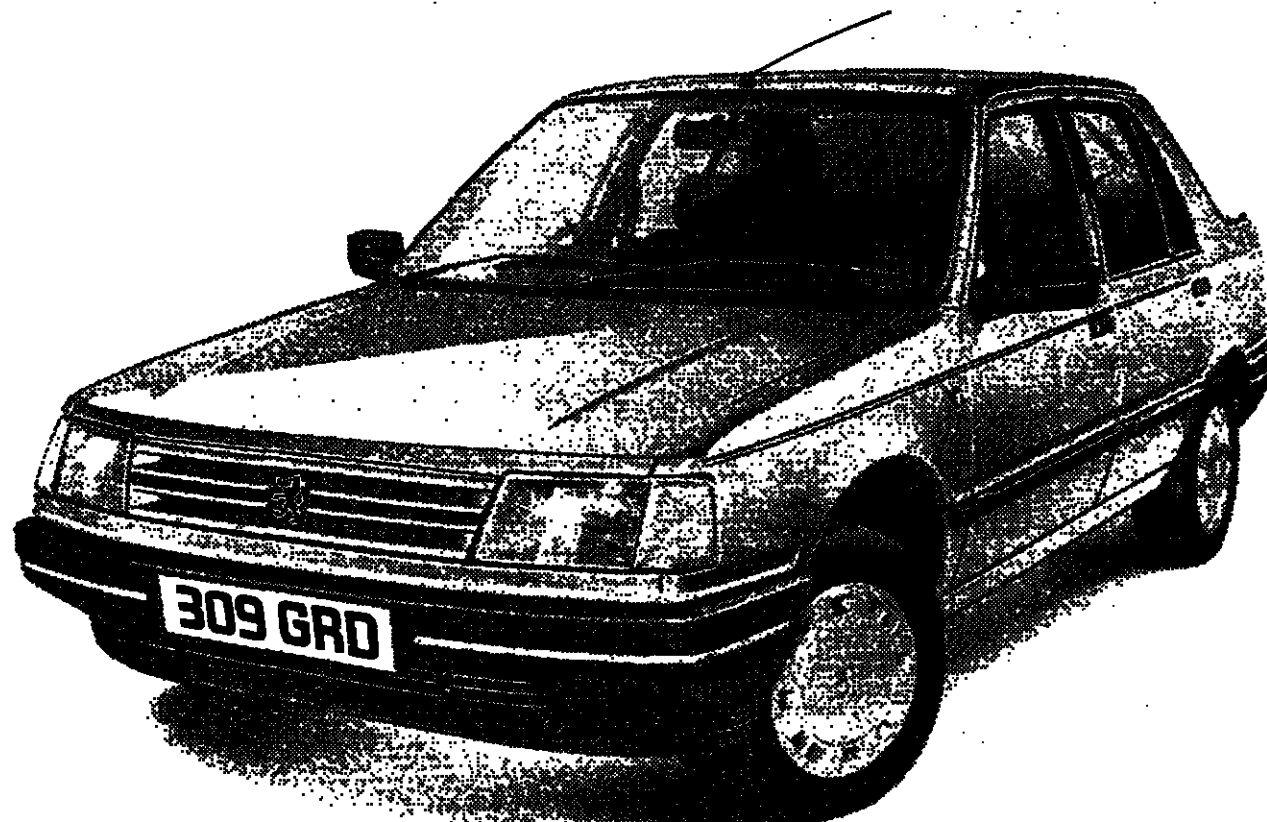
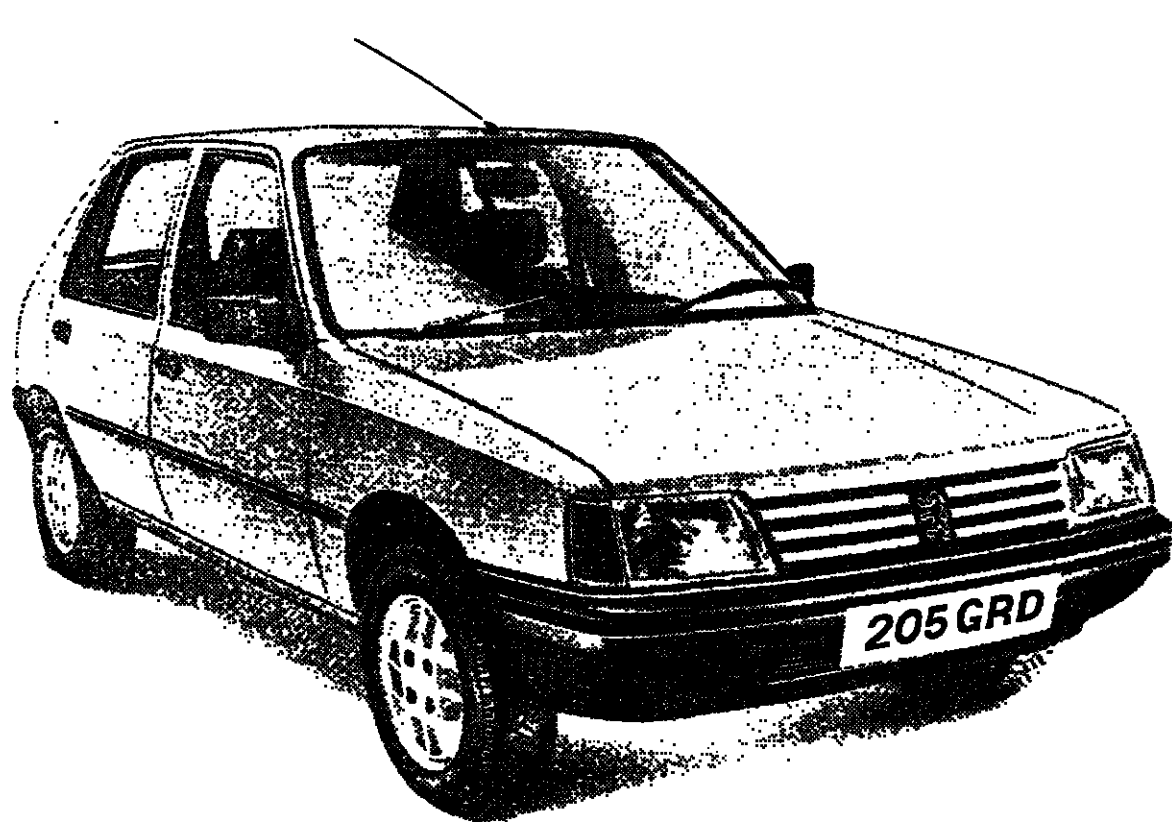
Solicitors offer a cheap deal to home buyers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

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mention. But don't think that more capacity means less economy. The 309 delivers a pleasing 64.2 mpg at a steady 56 mph and the 205 will broaden your smile with a very satisfactory 72.4 mpg.

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Auctioneers should pay full art VAT, says dealers' group

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A group of British dealers has broken the art world's united front on the issue of VAT standardization on art works throughout the EEC.

The London and Provincial Art Dealers' Association has welcomed a proposal opposed by the rest of the British art trade. Instead of demanding that EEC regulations are brought into line with Britain's arrangement, whereby VAT is charged only on the buyer's premium at auction, the association has called for British auctioneers to be forced into line with the dealers, paying the full 15 per cent VAT on the total cost of works sold.

The association represents 600 members from the dealing and shipping profession, and its stand could influence decision makers at the EEC Commission.

The other large groups of art dealers, the British Antique Dealers' Association (420 members) and the Society of London Art Dealers (60) are standing firm with the auctioneers. They say that the introduction of full VAT on the auction price would force the art trade from London to New York or Geneva, where

VAT is not payable. The EEC Commission's brief is to harmonize VAT practice within the EEC by 1992, a tall order because each country has its own arrangements. The latest discussions between representatives of each country and EEC commissioners takes place tomorrow.

Options so far discussed have included the full payment of VAT; the payment of VAT only on the dealer's margin of profit, a proposal dropped after a test case in the European Commission; and a notional tax, based on 30 per cent of the retail price, which the association objected to because of the complex paper work involved.

The latest suggestion by the commissioners is a complex "tax on tax" scheme regarded by all concerned as a bureaucratic nightmare and so far resisted by the Government. The association is the one significant group of dealers not represented at the EEC meetings. Its statement, published in its newsletter, is motivated first by resentment towards unregistered dealers, who the association says outnumber registered dealers six

to one. Under the association's proposals, unregistered dealers would be denied their principal source of VAT-free stock.

Mr Philip Broadbridge, the secretary, said: "The registered dealer suffers most from the inequitable way the tax is applied. He is caught between the auctioneers on the one side and unregistered dealers on the other."

Auctioneers enjoyed an unwarranted tax advantage. "They have been wooing the public both to buy and sell, and we run the risk of being virtually wiped out. We have been saying for some time that everyone should operate on the same tax basis and then it's up to the individual to succeed."

Mr Christopher Clarke, president of the British Antique Dealers' Association, defended the auctioneers, saying: "They are bringing a lot of artworks into this country from abroad and that's what makes us the centre of the art market". He said that if the auctioneers had to pay full VAT on imports, they could be forced to move their trade to New York or Geneva.



Michael Caine, who will be back on the small screen next autumn after an absence of more than 20 years from television drama to star in Jack the Ripper, a Thames Television serial. He will play the inspector investigating the killings of 1888. The director, David Wickes, believes he has discovered the murderer's identity. (Photograph: John Rogers).

Haemophiliacs urge fund for Aids sufferers

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Government was accused yesterday of being "insensitive and uncaring" towards 1,200 haemophiliacs who have been infected with the Aids virus through the health service.

The sufferers and their families were described as the victims of a hidden tragedy at the launch of a campaign to win them state help, including a fund to protect their dependants.

The Haemophilia Society is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, to discuss special benefits and insurance schemes for members infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Already 60 of the 1,200 have developed the disease and 45 have died. About 200 of those infected are children or teenagers, and several hundred others are under 35 years old.

All were infected through contaminated Factor VIII, a blood-clotting factor necessary to treat their inherited condition. The product, now heat-treated for safety, was imported from America because Britain could not make enough of its own.

Dr Peter Jones, director of

the Newcastle Haemophilia Centre, said yesterday: "I am seeing people who are ill and dying as a direct result of their medical treatment, and who are trapped by government inertia. This disaster is producing exactly the same sort of tragedy and misery as did the events at Zeebrugge and Hungerford, but on a much bigger scale."

Mr Simon Taylor, an executive member of the Haemophilia Society, said the only response so far from the Department of Health and Social Security was that claims for compensation had to be pursued through the courts.

Haemophiliacs carrying the Aids virus could not get life insurance or mortgage protection because they were "bad risks", and those suffering from Aids needed extra money to meet the costs of caring for them at home. "I don't believe that a caring Government can stand by while widows and children are thrown out of their homes."

Magistrates at Marlborough Street court, London, yesterday suspended a prison sentence imposed on Wayne Connolly, aged 24, an Aids victim who admitted stealing music cassettes from a London store, after being told that he had less than a year to live.

Complaints over holidays upheld

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The summer holiday season has ended with the Advertising Standards Authority upholding a torrent of complaints about misleading and inaccurate travel brochures and advertisements and not so "free" holidays.

In one case a winter holiday brochure issued by Airtours Ltd, of Helmsford, Rosendale, included a photograph of apartments different from those on offer in Malta - because the real apartments had not been completed; wrongly claimed the apartments had fully equipped kitchens and misled people about the number of local sandy beaches.

Another successful complainant pointed out that Blakes Holidays, of Wroxham, Norfolk, boasted a network of beautiful lakes "offering 200 cruising miles". In fact there are fewer than 130 miles of navigable channel.

Thomas Cook was tripped up by an observant trading standards officer who discovered that people associated with the firm's advertising agency were used in a photograph printed in Cook's newspaper, *Holiday Times*, which encouraged customers to use

the Thomas Cook holiday service.

The authority considered that would lead readers to place unwarranted credence on the opinions expressed in favour of the advertiser and the practice was "open to misconstruction".

Thomas Cook and Thomson Holidays each had two complaints against them upheld by the authority.

Other successful complaints included one against a holiday firm which advertised a 10-day holiday to Yugoslavia as including an excursion to Venice. But when a customer booked the trip she was charged an additional £26 per person.

The authority drew attention last month to sales promotions offering so-called "free" holiday accommodation which failed to make clear that the accommodation was dependent upon purchasing meals in selected hotels at specified prices, but yesterday's report included two more cases.

One of the complaints involved Holiday Ownership Exchange, of Leicester Square, London, which has already had three complaints against it upheld during the past year.

Firms face revalued rates

By David Walker

Inland Revenue officials are taking the first step towards a tax reform which could prove even more controversial than the poll tax.

Within the next two weeks, two million shopkeepers, managers and traders will be asked to supply the Inland Revenue's Valuation Office with full details of rented commercial premises.

The information will be used by the department to compile lists of non-domestic property throughout England, noting their estimated rental value.

At present, rates for commercial property are based on 1973 rental values. The Government wants these values updated as part of its reform of council finance.

One result could be considerable swings in how much businesses will have to pay in rates, which, according to the Government's plan, will in future be collected nationally rather than by individual councils.

Council stops £1m poly grant

By John Clare

Education Correspondent

Leeds City Council is withholding a grant worth nearly £1 million from Leeds Polytechnic because of the Government's plans to free colleges from local authority control.

Mr Geoffrey Driver, chairman of the education committee, said: "We have reduced our commitment to the poly because we are not prepared to give ratepayers' money to an institution which will be taken away from us".

Mr Christopher Price, director of the polytechnic, said he had not been told formally of the decision. The money was needed for essential capital expenditure.

He said the grant's loss also threatened the polytechnic's academic programme.

The Government announced in April that it planned to turn polytechnics into free-standing bodies outside local authority control. Legislation will be included in the new education Bill.

Newspaper 'lies' put press freedom at risk

Journalists were warned yesterday that they are jeopardizing press freedom by using "distasteful" methods in the pursuit of stories.

Mr Cyril Bainbridge, a member of the Press Council, told the Institute of Journalists' conference at Harrogate that the use of "lies, deceit, unnecessary subterfuge, insensitivity, invention, the fabrication of quotes and even some entire interviews and violation of privacy" were part of a catalogue of allegations against the Press.

He said the techniques used by some newspapers might lead to the setting up of a body to oversee standards.

"Liberties such as press freedom which we have long

enjoyed will not be preserved by the taking of liberties", he said.

It was often claimed that such methods were necessary to obtain stories in the public interest, but that was often used as a first, rather than last, resort.

"And there can be a deal of difference between what an editor might believe to be of interest to the public and what is in the public interest", Mr Bainbridge, editorial data manager of *The Times*, said.

Referring to the proposed broadcasting standards council to deal with complaints of sex and violence on television, he said: "Will a similar body to look at press standards be far behind?"

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First Gulf find for Armilla Patrol

Royal Navy moves into action after discovery of mines

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy minesweeping force in the Gulf discovered its first mines yesterday on the seabed off the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah, and launched a remote-controlled mini-submarine to blow them up with explosive charges.

The two mines were detected by the Brecon, one of four British minesweepers now combing a southern section of the Gulf of Oman. Four mines were found by the French last week in the northern area of the Gulf.

Lieutenant-Commander Stephen Gobey, the Brecon's captain, sent down the submersible, a French-designed PAP 104, to confirm that there were mines on the seabed after the vessel's sonar had indicated that there was one and possibly two of the devices on the seabed in about 30 ft of water.

The outline of one mine showed clearly on the mini-submarine's on-board television camera. The second was 300 yards away.

Royal Navy sources said yesterday that the old-fashioned contact mines were on

the seabed because the triggers that were supposed to release them from their sinkers so that they could float about 9 ft below the surface had failed to work. The surface area above the mines was thoroughly swept before action was taken to blow them up.

Since the water was too deep for the Brecon's team of five divers to go down and blow up the mines, Commander Gobey decided to use the PAP 104. The mini-submarine had explosive charges latched to its side which were released near the mines.

The discovery was made a few hours after Mr Ian Stewart, the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, had arrived on board the Andromeda, the command ship of the Royal Navy's Armilla Patrol, which is protecting the minesweepers during their operation in the Gulf of Oman.

Mr Stewart will be visiting all the Royal Navy ships in the Gulf during a brief trip to monitor their progress and to receive a full update on the threat facing British vessels.

Two weeks ago, three of the minesweepers, Brecon,

Bicester and Brocklesby, with Andromeda as escort, searched for mines off the island of Abu Musa in the Gulf, after the Americans said they had spotted mines in the water. But nothing was found.

Yesterday's discovery was the first positive sighting of mines since the French sweeping operation last week.

The Armilla Patrol's three warships are now all in the region.

● **BAHRAIN:** An unexploded Exocet missile which was defused on board a Japanese-managed tanker was fired from an Iraqi aircraft, regional shipping sources said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The missile was one of two which hit the Panamanian-flag chemical tanker Tomoe-8 on Thursday. The first set the engine room on fire and slightly injured three crewmen. The ship's captain said at the time he did not know who had attacked him.

Another two tankers — the Cypriot-flag Merlin and the Panamanian-flag Mariambim — attacked by Iraq in the past four days also have unexploded missiles on board.

Italian people ... (is) irresponsible and unprecedented".

Signor Mario Capanna, a leader of the left-wing Proletarian Democracy party, said Signor Gorla's silence was "morally unacceptable". Parliamentary leaders agreed yesterday that the Government would reply to questions today.

Goria under fire on kidnap silence

Rome (Reuters) — The Italian Government was attacked yesterday for keeping secret the kidnapping of three Italian engineers in Iraq until the news emerged in Beirut.

An Iraqi Kurdish group said on Monday that the kidnappings were in protest at the Italian aid to Iraq and the presence of Italian warships

escorting merchant ships in the Gulf.

The neo-fascist MSI party said in a parliamentary question for the Prime Minister, Signor Giovanni Gorla, that the Government must urgently clarify the circumstances of the kidnappings, saying that its "silence to parliament and therefore the

Italian people ... (is) irresponsible and unprecedented".

Signor Mario Capanna, a leader of the left-wing Proletarian Democracy party, said Signor Gorla's silence was "morally unacceptable". Parliamentary leaders agreed yesterday that the Government would reply to questions today.



Two Soviet firemen wearing asbestos suits walking away from piles of smuggled hashish blocks, worth £12 million, after soaking them in petrol and setting them alight yesterday.

Chernobyl hero burns drugs

From Christopher Walker, Knapvaen

Western reporters were driven some 25 miles out of Moscow yesterday to watch as blocks of hashish with a street value of £12 million were incinerated under the supervision of one of the heroes of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The scene took on a surreal quality as Mr Nikolai Bocharnikov, one of those who helped to put out the blaze in Chernobyl's crippled reactor, donned an asbestos suit and set light to the seized drug while armed militiamen kept close guard.

The huge consignment of hashish, stamped with a gold

label stating in English "excellent quality", was the first catch by Soviet customs men fighting attempts by smugglers to use the Soviet Union as a transit route for drugs.

As aromatic black smoke from the two blazing piles of petrol-soaked hashish billowed across a fire-fighters' training range here, senior customs officers outlined the extent of the problem first uncovered when the 2,677 lb of hashish was found in a consignment of raisins being shipped by rail from Afghanistan to West Germany.

"Because at that time we

had little co-operation with Western police forces, we stopped the consignment rather than tipping somebody off and letting it finish its journey," Mr Yuri Fedoskin, the deputy chief of the Soviet anti-smuggling department, said. "The heroic firemen who dealt with Chernobyl were the only ones willing and able to destroy it for us."

The subsequent discovery of nearly six tons more of hashish in two separate loads earlier this year resulted in Soviet co-operation with Western customs authorities, including the British.

Hawke is red-faced over leaks

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, embarrassed in Vancouver over his reported revelations about the Queen's position on Fiji, yesterday came under attack from opponents at home.

A series of leaks from the Australian Government had said that the Queen was about to announce that Fiji is no longer a member of the Commonwealth. The first leak came from Mr Hawke to journalists in Vancouver.

Mr John Howard, leader of the opposition, said it had been "improper, bordering on tasteless", for Mr Hawke to have pre-empted any statement by the Queen on Fiji.

Mr Ian Sinclair, leader of the National Party, weighed in with similar criticism.

Foreign affairs officials in Canberra meanwhile confirmed the content of a confidential cable received from the Australian High Commission in London on Friday. It read: "A statement from the Queen is likely in the next few days, which will constitute the formal severing of the constitutional link with Fiji."

Mr Howard said in a radio interview that the Prime Minister had made a gaffe which embarrassed Australia and would impair its ability to contribute usefully to the Fiji debate.

WORLD SUMMARY

Prisoners stage strike in Sweden

Stockholm — Prisoners at four Swedish jails yesterday went on strike in protest against new rules governing the granting of parole (Christopher Mosey writes).

These were introduced following the escape last week of Stig Bergling, the nation's No. 1 postwar spy, while on "con-jugal leave" with his former wife, Mrs Elisabeth Sandberg, at her flat in a Stockholm suburb.

Around 270 prisoners stayed in their cells, refusing to attend shifts in workshops at jails in the towns of Norrköping, Norrtälje, Kalmar and Tidaholm, and threaten to intensify the strike if the new rules remain in force.

Under the new regulations parole for those serving more than three years, who still have more than a year left, can only be granted by the head of the prison administration. This has led to mass cancellations and a huge backlog of cases.

Runcie plea to Libya

Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has been asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, to use his influence to secure the release of his special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, who went missing in Beirut nearly nine months ago (Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes).

Dr Runcie told Colonel Gaddafi that any steps he could take to ensure Mr Waite's safe return would "earn the gratitude of the Church of England, the British people as a whole, and the Anglican Communion worldwide".

Iran sale denied

An Afghan resistance leader yesterday denied that Mujahideen guerrillas had sold US-made ground-to-air Stinger missiles to Iran.

Maulvi Mohammad Younis Khalis, leader of the fundamentalist Hesb-e Islami resistance party, described reports that two of his commanders had sold between 16 and 20 missiles to Iran in May for more than £600,000 as "baseless, mischievous and absolute rubbish".

He said he knew nothing about the Stingers and there was as yet no proof that the allegations were correct.

Comrades embrace

Peking (Reuters) — Comrades from China and Hungary embraced yesterday in a mansion decked out for a queen and spoke obliquely of the upheavals in the communist world that kept them apart for 30 years.

The Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping paid a rare tribute to the Hungarian Communist Party's leader, Mr Janos Kadar, right — the man who ranks with him as one of communism's most innovative leaders, despite a collective age of 158 years. "We haven't seen each other for 30 years," said Mr Deng, hugging Mr Kadar. "Many things happened in those years ... it would have been better if they had not happened," replied Mr Kadar, without mentioning, at least while reporters were present, the Sino-Soviet ideological split of the early 1960s.

Park charges

Johannesburg — In response to inter-racial violence last weekend in which two white men were stabbed to death, and seven other whites and two blacks wounded, the Johannesburg City Council is planning to restrict access to some parks (Michael Hornsby writes).

The council's management committee has proposed that certain parks should be fenced, that entrance fees of up to 3 rands (0.90 pence) should be charged and the number of people allowed in be limited. Entrance fees would be charged at weekends.

Fears for refugees

Geneva — The strengthening of the "protection function" of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees was urged by the agency's executive committee at the end of its annual session (Alan McGregor writes). It voiced "particular concern at lack of adequate international protection for various groups of refugees in different parts of the world".

Middle East settlement

Shamir aide puts forward a change of role for Thatcher

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

determination for the Palestinians, which we see as synonymous with the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Such an event would undermine the Jordanian Government in a process which would probably end with the removal of the Hashemite throne."

Speaking on behalf of Mr.

He was responding to what he called "misplaced remarks" in a speech by Sir Geoffrey Howe last week, and to Mrs Thatcher's "unnecessary efforts" in trying to press Israel into joining an international peace conference for the region.

The Foreign Secretary had said it was wrong to claim that self-determination was incompatible with Israel's security. He added that occupation of the territories was spoiling Israel's international image.

Israel made no immediate, formal reply to Sir Geoffrey, but yesterday Mr Ben-Aharon asked *The Times* to pass on the views of Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, and in part, of the coalition Government.

He said: "There is unanimity in Israel against self-

American help in pressuring Israel to agree to such a conference, Mr Ben-Aharon said that such pressure was more likely to prejudice than ensure success.

"We would propose that if the British Government wants to play a role it should try to persuade King Hussein — persuade and not pressure — to agree to direct negotiations with us."

Mr Ben-Aharon said Israel appreciated Sir Geoffrey's concern for Israel's moral fibre and image, but the country was acting in accordance with its "national order of priorities".

"We have had security problems since the inception of the state more than 40 years ago. Terror and demonstrations will not produce results except death and injury to the victims of terror."

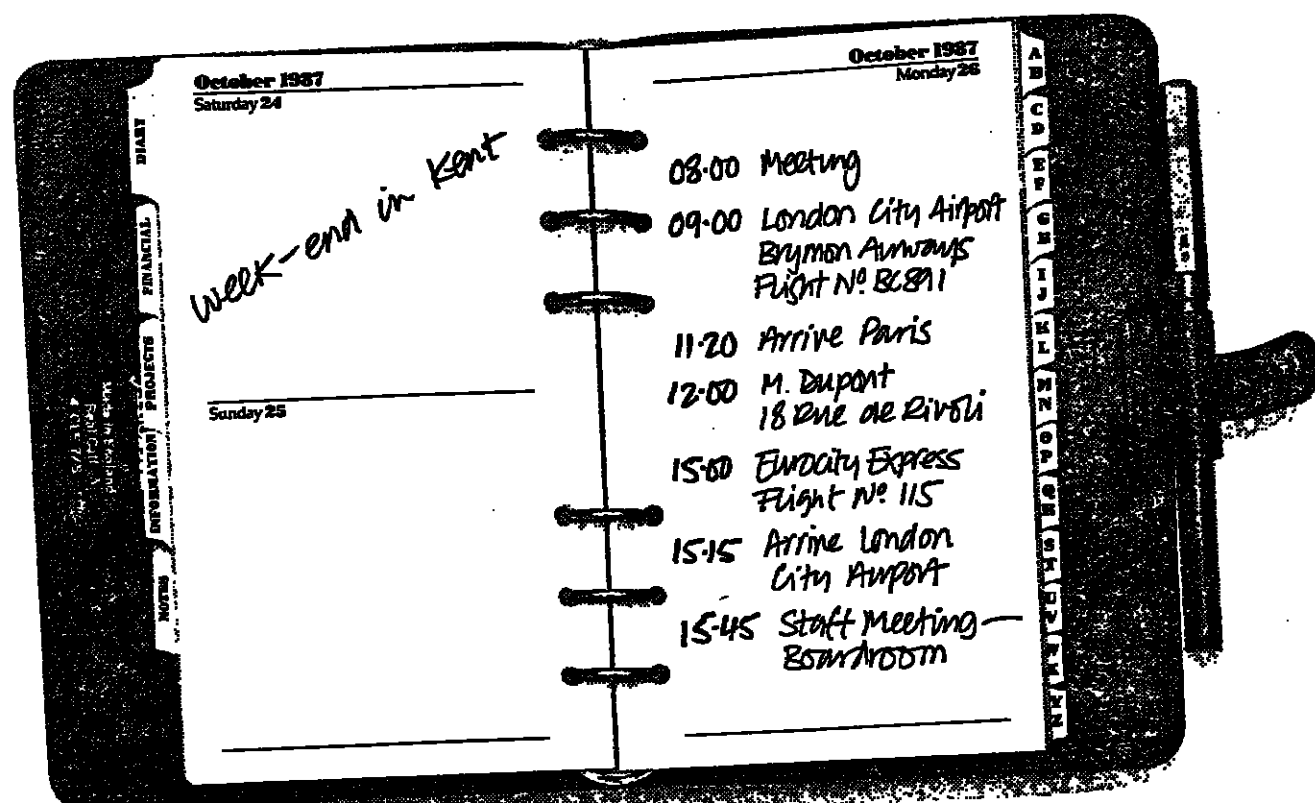
Meanwhile, widespread demonstrations and strikes continued yesterday throughout the occupied territories and East Jerusalem. This was the seventh consecutive day of Palestinian activity in what appears to be a build-up of tension before the visit to Israel of Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, which starts on Friday.

Turning to reports that Mrs Thatcher was trying to enlist



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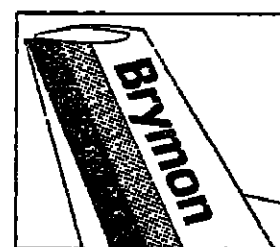
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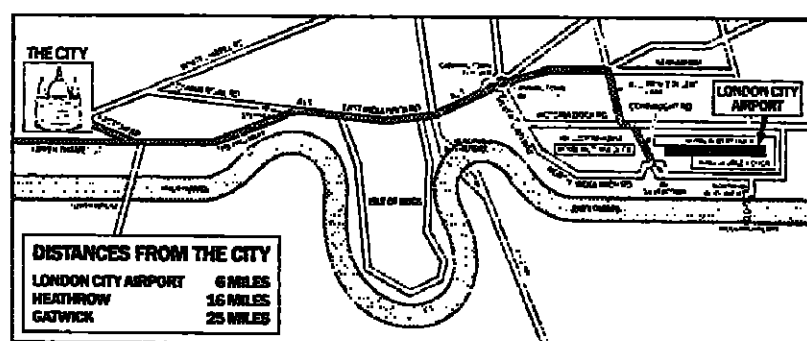
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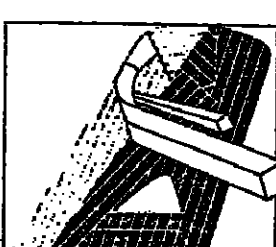
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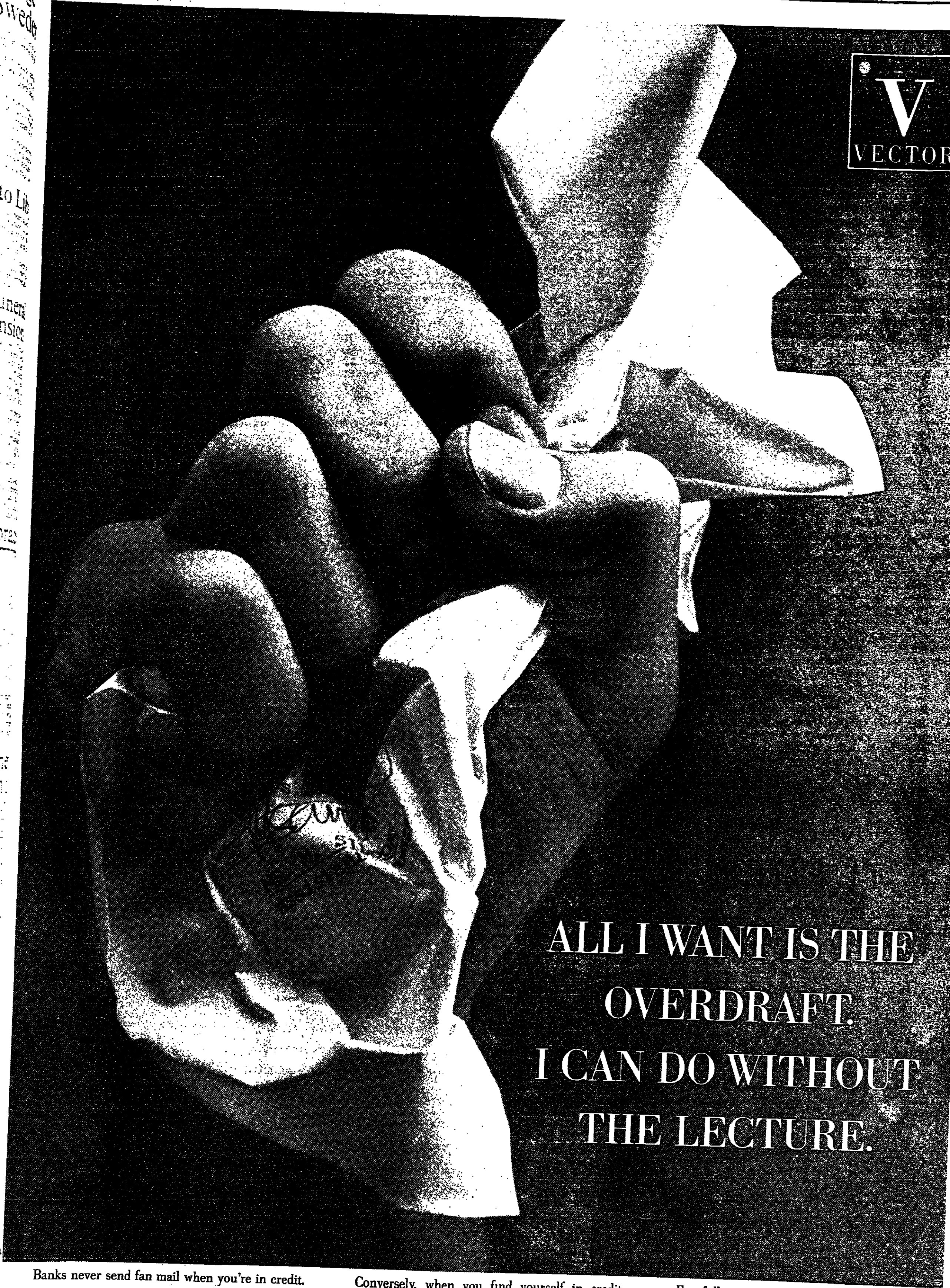
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Central America making progress towards fulfilling Arias vision

Reforms are underway as deadline for accord nears

By Martha Honey and Christopher Thomas

With the calendar showing just three weeks remaining to implement the ambitious Central American peace plan designed by President Arias of Costa Rica, a survey of the region shows progress in implementing its provisions.

Despite the Reagan Administration's increasingly sharp criticism of the plan, which calls for an end to US support for the Nicaraguan Contras, the region's five countries have all, with the exception of Honduras, started instituting internal reforms in response to it. But the Reagan Administration fears that Nicaragua's compliance with the accord is cosmetic, and will be reversed if the Contras go out of business.

The plan, signed on August 7 by the presidents of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala, sets out a fast-paced timetable for forming national reconciliation commissions and internal dialogues in each country.

The next stage is due to come into operation on November 7. It provides for a ceasefire, the end of US aid to the Contras and of all foreign entanglement in the region's Managua - US-backed Contra rebels shot down a Soviet-supplied helicopter with a heat-seeking missile over northern Nicaragua, the Defence Ministry said yesterday (Reuters reports). The MI-17 helicopter was hit on Sunday about 90 miles north-east of Managua in Matagalpa province as it provided air support for government troops.

The fate of four crew members was unknown and army patrols were searching the remote jungle region for the wreckage, the statement added. It was the sixth helicopter the Government has admitted losing to the Contras since December 1985.

conflicts. It calls for an amnesty for rebels and political prisoners. Some steps have already been taken, but it is clear these provisions will not be fully or uniformly complied with by all the countries.

Despite the peace plan, President Reagan intends to ask Congress for \$270 million (£166 million) in new military aid for the Contras soon after the November 7 deadline.

The following is a country-by-country survey of how the peace plan is being implemented: **Nicaragua** - The peace plan is most closely tailored towards ending the US-backed war in Nicaragua and forcing the Sandinistas, the region's only leftist rulers, to adopt democratic reforms. The text of the plan is posted throughout the countryside and for the first time in six years, Nicaraguans say peace and democracy may be at hand. The Nicaraguans have allowed the reopening of the opposition newspaper *La Prensa*, and the Catholic radio station, although the US Administration argues that several other newspapers and radio stations remain banned. Nicaragua has allowed two exiled priests to return, has freed several political prisoners - although hundreds remain in jail - and has permitted some anti-government demonstrations. The security forces, however, have kept a watchful eye, and have sometimes intervened during protests.

Former terrorist challenges Greens

From Richard Owen, Bonn

She was a haunting figure in the horrifying saga of the Baader-Meinhof Gang, and one of its founders. Astrid Proll was the girl terrorist who drove the getaway car in 1971 when Andreas Baader, leader of the gang, was sprung from prison. She herself escaped and fled to England in 1974, to work incognito as a garage mechanic in London.

Yesterday Frau Proll, who was rearrested and extradited in 1978 after being spotted by a London policeman, made her first public appearance since she was released from prison in 1979. Black-haired and intense, in a gold and black print dress, she appeared at a hearing organized by the Green Party on the origins of urban terrorism and the need to rehabilitate its repentant practitioners. Now aged 40, Frau Proll is among those who want to be rehabilitated.

Yesterday's Parliamentary hearing was deliberately designed to reopen the wounds of the "German Autumn", as the showdown between the West German State and the terrorists 10 years ago is still called.

Many Greens are of the same generation as Baader-Meinhof, and shared their disillusionment with West German society. However they adopt gentler, more life-embracing policies, and they are now an established force in politics, with 42 seats and 8 per cent of the vote.

The Red Army Faction had been a small and isolated group, but incidents such as unexplained deaths of faction members still had to be explained, Frau Proll said, looking across the table at Herr Otto Schily, the radical lawyer who once defended Baader-Meinhof members and is now a leading Green.

For many West Germans, the real issue is whether the heavy handed response was justified. Frau Antje Vollmer, the Green leader chairing the hearing, said that the Government of the time had overestimated the danger.

Others argue that the laws passed in the 1970s gave the terrorists a moral victory by bringing West Germany closer to the liberal state they claimed it was.

A passion for peace in region of military strongmen

From Martha Honey
San José

President Arias of Costa Rica has built his political career on a peace platform. Last year, he was elected by making peace his central campaign issue. Since taking office in May, 1985, he has worked with passion on his peace plan, which was signed in August.

At 46, Dr Arias is Costa Rica's youngest president and is rapidly becoming its most popular head of state. His popularity jumped by 30 points in public opinion polls after the peace plan was signed. In this country, without an army or armed insurgents, and with a history of neutrality, peace and democracy are the cornerstones of political doctrine.

But President Arias has been cold-shouldered by the Reagan Administration, which favours continued Contra aid. President Arias last week urged Washington to "give peace a chance. Give us the opportunity to see if we, Central Americans, can comply with the Guatemala peace plan."

A British-educated political scientist and lawyer, Dr Arias is an intellectual statesman in a region usually ruled by military strongmen. His peace plan is a thoughtful, carefully timed document which balances the disparate political interests of the leftist Sandinistas, the pro-US Hoo-



President Arias of Costa Rica, left, who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize yesterday, photographed earlier this year in San Salvador with President Duarte of El Salvador. Mr Duarte arrives today in Washington for talks with President Reagan.

disman and Saverduran governments, the leftist guerrillas in Guatemala and El Salvador and the Contras.

Underlying the peace plan is Dr Arias's conviction that rational men can solve con-

licts through negotiations. "If we fail, war triumphs," he told *The Times*. "If there is no peace, there is not a better world for our children. We don't want to be remembered in Central American history as

the statesmen who punished our people because of a lack of tolerance, flexibility and responsibility."

President Arias combines political realism with optimism and vision. Asked if his

peace plan would be fully implemented by the November 5 deadline, he replied: "I want to be hopeful. I want to dream. After all, if there is a political will I don't think this is an impossible dream."

President Arias's willingness to negotiate with the Sandinistas, an anti-communist and a liberal who believes strongly in Western-style democracy, has won him more reforms and peace in Nicaragua. "There is no democracy without political pluralism, without individual liberty, without a free press and without a strong opposition."

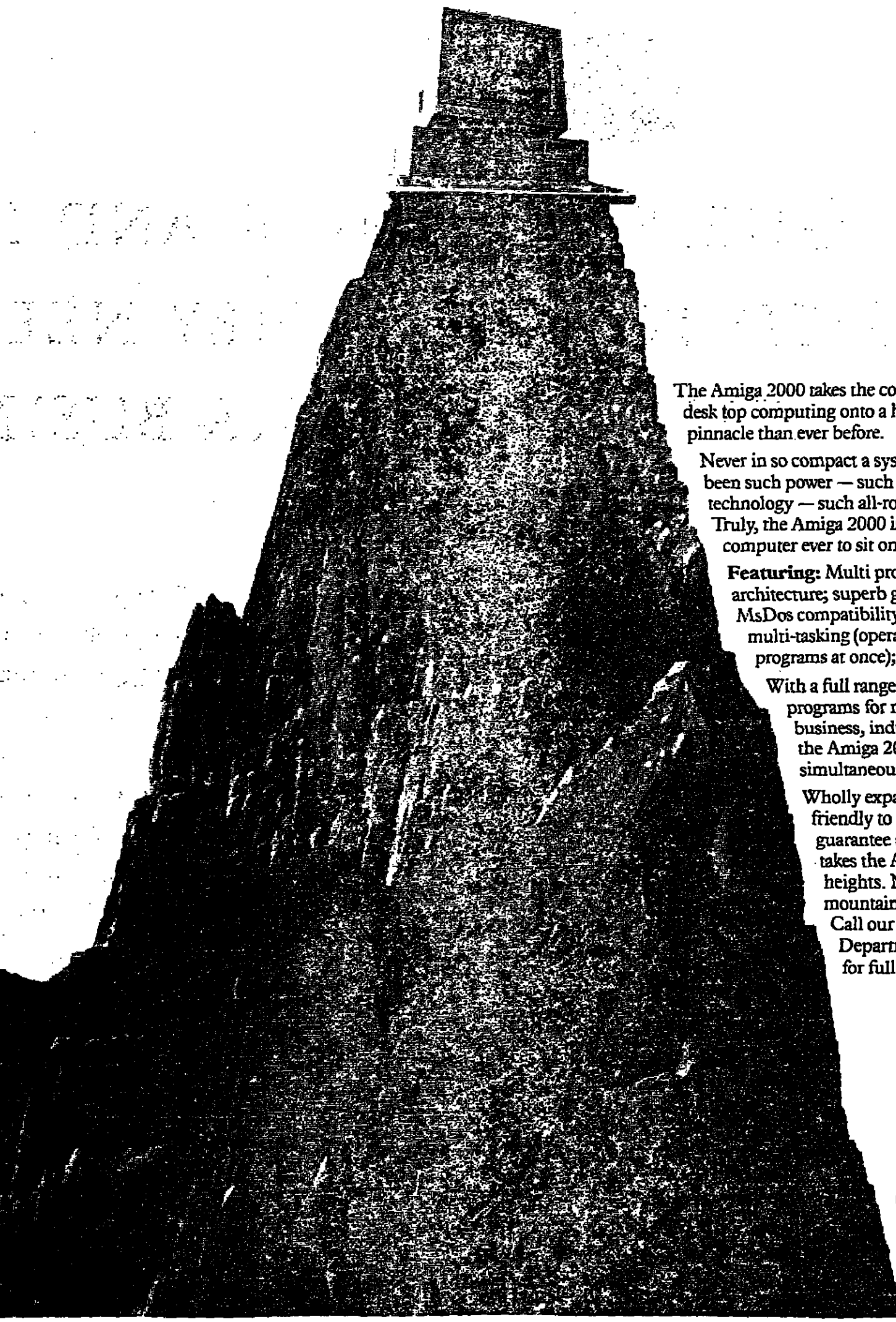
● Essex campus days: In 1967 a young Essex University student stood in the kitchen of a house near Colchester and confided to his friends his ambition to lead his country (Nicholas Beeston writes).

President Arias has not only fulfilled his campus dream, but, to the delight and surprise of his friends in England, won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr Simon Collier, a lecturer in the Department of History, in whose home President Arias lodged for his first year in England, recalled yesterday how most of his contemporaries at Essex believed that one day "Oscar" would realize his ambition, but were surprised by the speed of his success.

His supervisor at Essex, University, Dr Christian Anglade, a lecturer in the Department of Government, added that the young Arias, working on his thesis "Who Rules in Costa Rica?", showed a different approach to his region's problems.

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Suva regime's goals

'No persecution' pledged by Fiji

From Gavin Bell
Suva

Fiji's military regime will discriminate in favour of indigenous Fijians, but those of Indian origin need not fear persecution, according to the minister charged with "relocating" the racial balance in the islands.

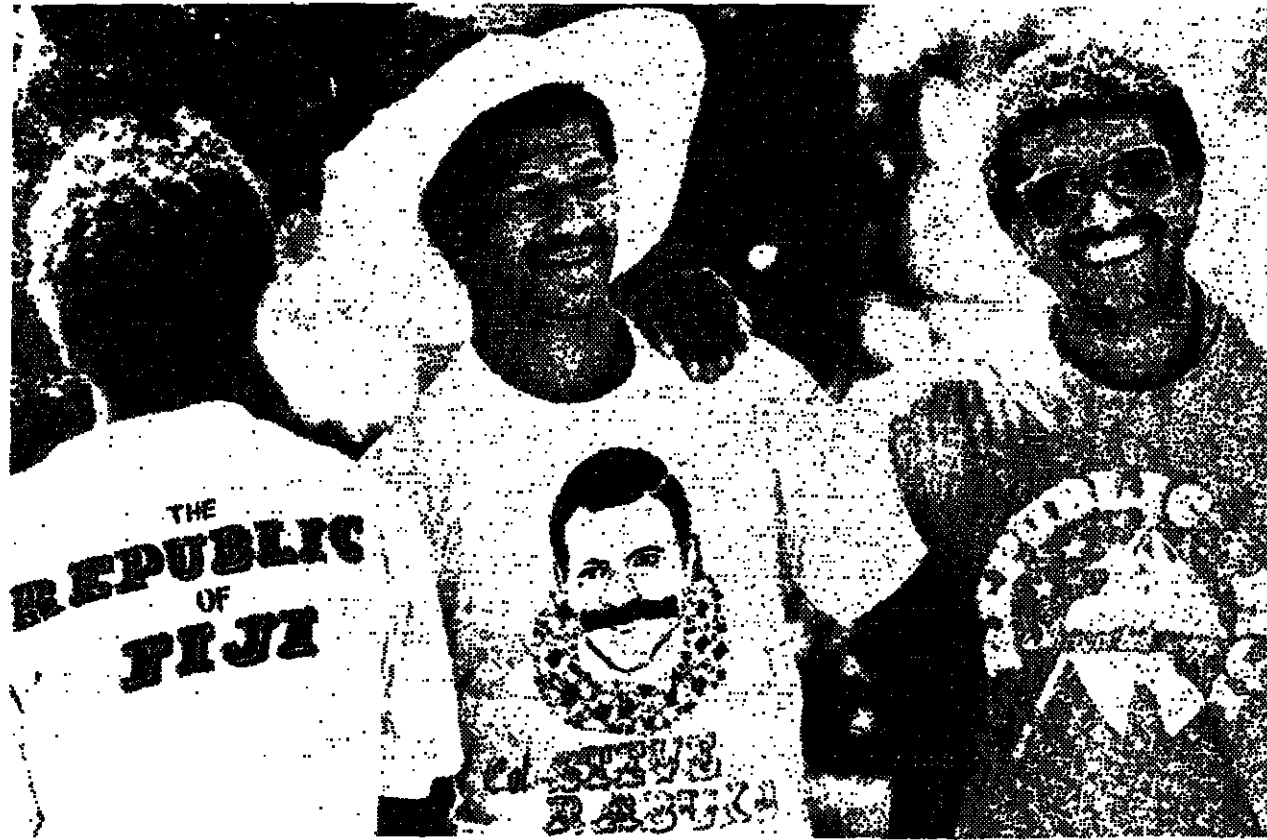
Ratu Meli Vesikula, who holds the key portfolio of Fijian Affairs, said yesterday that his goal was to raise the economic and social standards of the Melanesian population without affecting those of the more affluent ethnic Indian community.

"The present political crisis in Fiji came about because of disparity against the indigenous Fijians, which has resulted in them being left behind socially and economically," he told *The Times*.

They were not properly prepared for independence in 1970, and had suffered from unfair distribution of wealth and opportunities, Ratu Vesikula said. He added: "There must be some discrimination for the indigenous Fijians. I think that must be understood."

Those of Indian origin, however, should have nothing to worry about. "We are not going to disturb their standard of living. Everything that they own, businesses, property, land, they are secure. There is going to be a general levelling out of standards, but we're not going to disturb theirs... We're not going to turn heads overnight."

Ratu Vesikula endeavoured to prevent the impression of racial discrimination, talking



Fijian youths wearing T-shirts they are selling in Suva celebrating the new military regime and its leader, Colonel Rabuka.

of education, employment and social welfare programmes for the needy. He intended to develop rural areas, to establish a poverty line and to ensure that no Fijian lived below it.

Equality was the order of the day: "We want to get rid of this racial thing. If people are going to live together in Fiji, then they must integrate, and the best way to integrate is from the same social and economic standards."

Yet there was resentment against the ethnic Indians, whom he referred to once as "non-Fijians," on other grounds: "They are a migrant race. It is debatable whether they have their loyalty here. They didn't fight in any war with their Fijian brothers. While our boys were dying on battlefields, they were increasing their numbers here and strengthening their industrial muscles."

In fairness, Ratu Vesikula

appeared not to be aware of the conclusions of a survey, published in a recent letter to *The Times*, that the Melanesian birth rate began overtaking that of the ethnic Indian community in Fiji in 1980.

He was, he said, disturbed by a security fence around the home of an Indian neighbour in an affluent suburb of Suva.

"They have to realize that there is no need for this if they invest and employ Fijians. The way Fiji was progressing

until this year, Indians would have ended up living in steel boxes, and Fijians would be outside without fingernails trying to break in."

One solution he intended to implement soon was military conscription.

● **Canibans leaves:** Ratu Penaia Ganilau, Fiji's Governor-General, left Suva yesterday for his home village on the nearby island of Taveuni. Diplomatic sources said they expected him to return soon.

'Clint Eastwood' Tamil chief joins the missing

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

A Tamil friend ruminates: "Perhaps this is the way Prabhakaran would have wanted to go. A last stand. Blazing guns."

There were rumours yesterday that Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, the founder and leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had been killed or captured. Mr Prabhakaran reportedly modelled himself on Clint Eastwood, saying little and shooting a lot.

There have been such rumours before, and they have not been true; perhaps this time.

The Indian troops of the peacekeeping force in the north of Sri Lanka are certainly keen to make it so. One reason they dropped airborne troops north of Jaffna town at the crossroads of Urumpirai two days ago was said to be that they believed him to be there. Three Indian commandos died in that attempt.

It is not easy to see what Mr Prabhakaran can hope to gain from the present conflict. India, particularly the south Indian Tamils across the 12 miles of water of the Palk Strait, has for four years protected, sheltered and patronized him and his guerrillas. The Tigers have received their training, their recruits and their arms on Indian soil. The winking eye of the Indian authorities allowed free passage for men and war material across the narrow strip of water.

With this support and asylum removed, the rebel movement can only wither. If he was hoping to emulate the Sikh

separatist gunmen and defy Indian armed might, it would be as well to remember that the Sikhs can slip easily over the long and permeable land border with Pakistan for their shelter, resupply and refreshment. The guerrillas in the north-eastern Indian states of Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur, who have been carrying on a hit-and-run campaign against the Indian Army for years, have camps in Burma or Bangladesh.

One explanation for Mr Prabhakaran's apparently suicidal behaviour in tackling the military might of the world's largest army in the world is suggested by a number of observers here. They say that he understands only the gun, and that he and his men do not have the administrative ability to run a peacetime government in the Tamil province that would be set up under the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

"The boys have shown they are not ready for a democratic way of life," said Dr Kingsley Swampillai, the Bishop of Batticaloa. "They are not politically mature enough to lead the administration. They have no political training, only military training."

The feeling is, therefore, that they fight because they know no other way to succeed.

There is some justification for this view. But it underestimates Mr Prabhakaran's drive for power, his desire to be the chief figure, and his deep mistrust of the Sinhalese politicians who have constantly, he believes, been deliberately dishonest in dealings with the Tamils.

A perceptive article in *The Sunday Times* of Sri Lanka last weekend noted that, in the only major interview he has given — to the Madras-based *Hindu* newspaper — he repeated a long series of broken Sinhalese promises that led him to conclude that a separate state was the only way out for the Tamils.

The same article notes that Mr Prabhakaran was financed not by mythical Tamil heroes, nor by Marx, but by Clint Eastwood. Eastwood on screen kills a lot, and talks very little.

"My natural inclination makes me lay less emphasis on words," Mr Prabhakaran told the *Hindu*. "In serious politics it won't do to concentrate on talking; you must go through action and then talk."

Mr Prabhakaran, a lower caste Hindu from a fishing community, was part of a

growing revolt against the dominance in Jaffna politics of the former caste, who comprised the bulk of the lawyers and intellectuals and traders of Tamil society. When the mayor of Jaffna was deemed to have betrayed the Tamil cause, it was Mr Prabhakaran who picked up a gun and assassinated him, launching himself on a career of terrorism.

When he found himself isolated by the Indo-Sri Lankan accord signed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi and President Jayewardene, he remained silent, and for some time declined to commit himself to the agreement.

He agreed to the establishment of an interim administration, but only with the LTTE in a dominant position, and the other guerrilla groups out in



Mr Prabhakaran: he shoots first and talks later

the cold. The only way he got his way in this was by stage-managing the public suicide of one of his men by starvation.

He wanted to name his own chief administrator, and on the understanding that a former government official, presently in jail, Mr N. Pathmanathan, would get the job, agreed to allow President Jayewardene officially to make the appointment.

When the president named another man, Mr Prabhakaran was incensed. He believed that this was yet another example of Sinhalese perfidy. The arrest and suicide of some of his men caught at sea was the last straw. His men went on a campaign of mass murder, and provoked the Indians into their present offensive against him.

It seems to be an offensive which he cannot deflect. Mr Gandhi is determined that the Tigers shall be disbanded. The question is: if Mr Prabhakaran survives, can he win the peace? There are those who believe that his determination, his totally implacable willingness to kill, his ambition, mean that he can.

This man has checked-in at Heathrow, JFK, O'Hare and St. Louis. He's yet to leave home.



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Use arms cash for aid, says Moscow

From Richard Owen, Bonn

Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, one of Moscow's senior foreign policy officials, yesterday ended a five-day visit to Bonn by proposing that money saved in East-West disarmament deals should be put into a specially created fund for aid to the Third World.

Mr Dobrynin, the Central Committee secretary for international relations, said he was optimistic about the prospects for both nuclear and conventional disarmament as a superpower deal on intermediate range missiles (INF) approached.

He said Soviet-West German relations were now on a "qualitatively higher level" and improved relations with the West were part of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's "new thinking."

Mr Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador in Washington for a quarter of a century, was harried yesterday by West German journalists demanding to know how much Russia already spent on aid to the Third World. "Twenty-one billion roubles" was the prompt reply, in the spirit of *glasnost*.

Asked what this represented as a proportion of Soviet gross national product, Mr Dobrynin evaded that one with a

classic pre-*glasnost* ploy. "Ask my delegation afterwards," he replied smoothly. "I do have the figures, but it would take much too long."

The proposal for a Third World "solidarity fund" came after talks between Mr Dobrynin and senior officials of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). Herr Egon Bahr, the SPD disarmament spokesman, said the fund — to which all Warsaw Pact and Nato nations would have to contribute — would be "a signal of hope". It could be co-ordinated by the United Nations.

Mr Dobrynin confirmed that Mr Gorbachev would visit Bonn in the "not too distant future".

He described his talks with Chancellor Kohl as "constructive", confirming the impression that West German-Soviet relations are on an even keel following a period of frostiness caused by Herr Kohl's remarks in January that Mr Gorbachev was a propagandist comparable in skill to Dr Goebbels.

Mr Dobrynin said Moscow hoped for an accord with the United States on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic weapons before the 1988 US Presidential election.

Taiwan to relax travel restrictions to China

Taipei (Reuters) — Taiwan has agreed in principle to drop a ban on travel to China, and tens of thousands of people are now anxiously waiting for final approval which is expected today.

The Prime Minister, Mr Yu Kuo-hwa, told visiting foreign journalists on Monday that the people of Taiwan would soon be allowed to visit relatives in China for the first time since 1949. Officials were working out details of the new policy, which marks a big shift in the Government's headline stand towards its arch-enemy, Peking.

The Nationalist Government had banned all contacts with Peking since 1949, when it fled to the island along with almost two million people, including 600,000 troops, who were defeated by the Communists in a civil war.

ing out the new policy for about a month and a formal announcement has been delayed repeatedly amid signs that the Government is losing its nerve.

State-controlled newspapers have said the final stamp of approval will come during the weekly meeting of the Central Standing Committee of the ruling Kuomintang (the Nationalist Party) today.

The Government has already dashed public hopes for unregulated tourist trips to China and has ruled out dropping a ban on direct trade. It insists that only Chinese mainlanders with relatives in the country will be allowed to go.

Two Taiwanese journalists who flouted the law and travelled in China last month will appear in court next week to face criminal charges.

Eastwood's...
joins the miss...

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As if that wasn't enough, we are also introducing a brand new model to the line up - the new Escort LX...

The new Escort LX

In 1986 Ford launched the Sierra LX. It was such good value for money that it proved immensely successful. So why, you might wonder, was there no Escort LX? Now here it is. A car with all the equipment you'll find in the Escort L, plus all these features, for only £386 more than the maximum retail price of the L version.

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- ☐ Digital clock

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- ☐ 175/70 x 13 tyres
- ☐ 1.4 or 1.6 litre engines
- ☐ 5 speed gearbox
- ☐ Lower body-side paint treatment.

The Escort Popular

- ☐ Rear wash/wipe is added to the Escort Popular. So now you can see what's happening behind as well as what's happening ahead.
- ☐ The wider your tyres, the greater your grip. Escort Popular saloons with 1.3 litre engines now get 155 SR13 tyres.

The Escort L

- ☐ For effortless motorway performance, a five speed gearbox is now standard on with 1.3 and 1.4 litre Escort L models.
- ☐ Have you ever had your radio aerial snapped off in the night? Or, just as annoying, whipped off in the car wash? It'll never happen again if you drive an Escort L, because from now on Escort L models have rear window radio aerials.



The Escort GL

- ☐ Few extras give more pleasure than a sunroof, especially the Ford design which tilts as well as slides. Sunroofs are now standard in all Escort GL models.

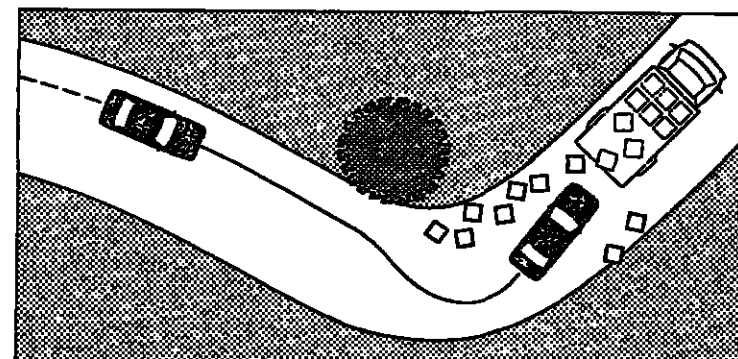
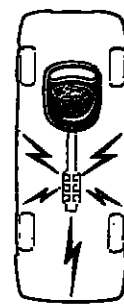
- ☐ How many times have you locked your doors but forgotten to lock your boot? This couldn't happen if you had central locking which is now standard on all Escort GL models.

The Escort Ghia

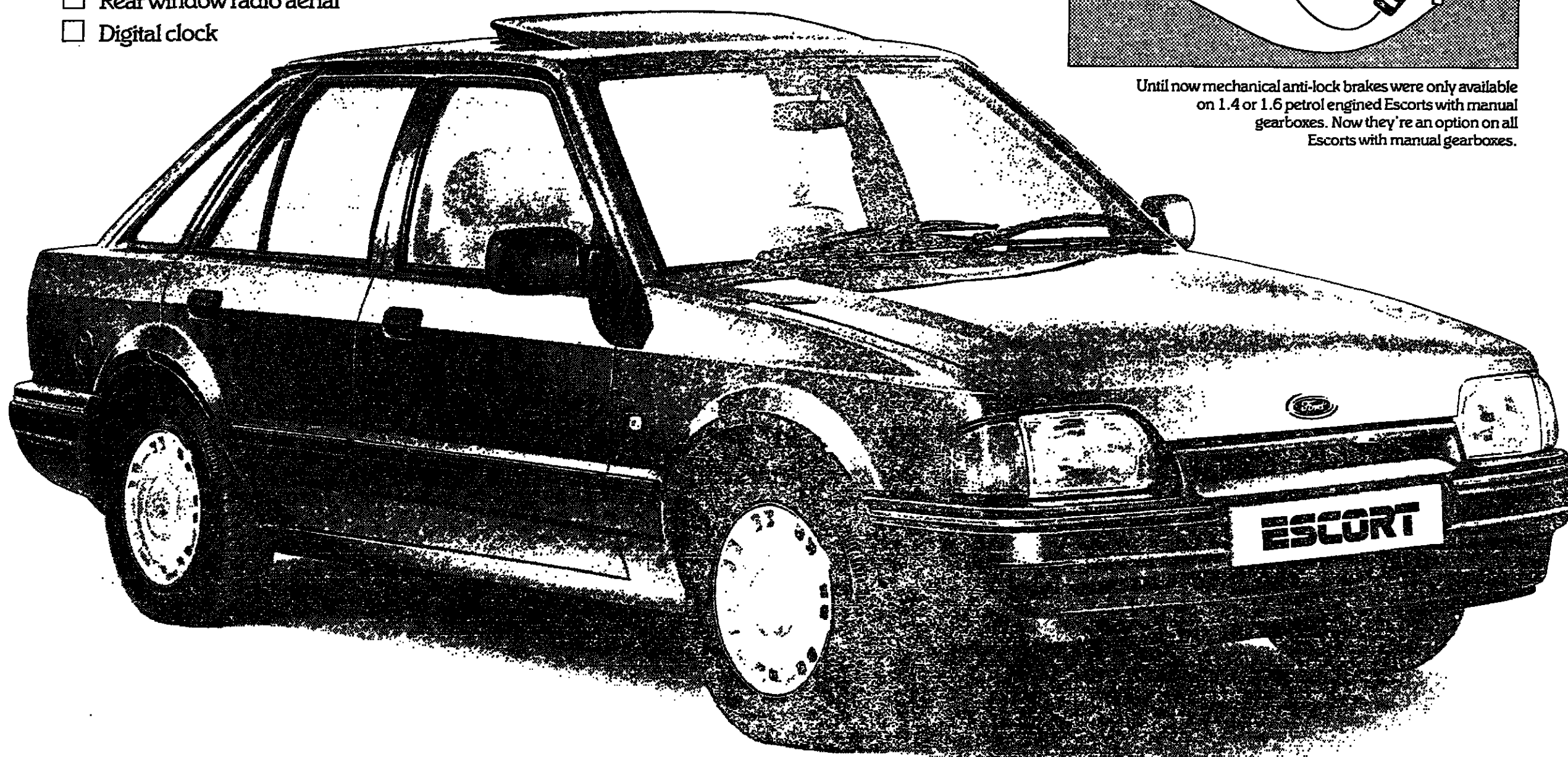
- ☐ The Escort Ghia now gets wider 175/70 x 13 tyres for greater grip.
- ☐ The Escort Ghia also gets powered, heated mirrors. They de-mist and dry themselves as well as adjusting electrically.
- ☐ The ECU2 electronic sound system with its self-search, stereo radio/cassette is the ultimate in Ford's in-car-entertainment. We've added this to the Escort Ghia.

The Escort XR3i and XR3i Cabriolet

- ☐ Central locking used to be an option but both these cars now get it as standard.
- ☐ Powerful driving lights are now standard features too. Just what you need with winter coming on.
- ☐ The XR3i has a rear window radio aerial but we couldn't add this to the Cabriolet. So we've given it a power aerial instead.



Until now mechanical anti-lock brakes were only available on 1.4 or 1.6 petrol engined Escorts with manual gearboxes. Now they're an option on all Escorts with manual gearboxes.



Cars with a future



Taiwan...
restriction...

Secret papal mission to seek rebel compromise

From Roger Boyes, Rome

This week, a secret emissary of the Pope will travel by winding roads to a Swiss mountain retreat to make peace or at least a temporary armistice with the rebel Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, champion of the Latin Mass, who has threatened to split the Catholic Church by ordaining his own bishops.

The messenger will be a cardinal — Vatican sources are talking about the recently retired and outspoken conservative Mgr Giuseppe Siri of Genoa — and the mission has the full backing of the Pope.

Archbishop Lefebvre, aged 82, rejected the teaching of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), and insisted that

the archbishop's language — he is on record as saying: "If the Pope is in error, he ceases to be a Pope" — and reach some form of compromise.

But Archbishop Lefebvre continues to ordain priests, and the ordinations are technically valid.

As the archbishop has grown older and somewhat weaker, so he has increasingly threatened to launch a generation of bishops on the world. This would be his way of perpetuating the Latin Mass after his death.

It would also profoundly embarrass the Vatican. This summer, the archbishop travelled to Rome and held surprisingly congenial talks with Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, the Vatican's chief theologian.

As a result of these talks, and the promise that the Vatican would come up with a peace offering, he postponed a scheduled consecration of bishops. However, time is running out for the archbishop, and he has again been considering the possibility of consecrating them.

The cardinal sent by the Pope will inspect the Ecône seminary and make a recommendation to him, but he will also spell out the terms of the proposed agreement. The Vatican could widen the use of the Tridentine, or Latin, Mass.

The currently-ordained priests could be "regularized" — that is, be officially approved by a bishop acceptable to the Vatican.

Finally, the Vatican is ready to find a formula which would legalize the archbishop's seminaries. In return, Archbishop Lefebvre is expected to abandon the idea of creating a wave after wave of bishops.

The Vatican expects him to submit himself to the discipline of the Pope. As a first step, he could also make clear that he is not opposed to the Second Vatican Council as such, but more to "liturgical reformers" who, he believes, are abusing the spirit of the council.



Mgr Lefebvre: Latin Mass champion who defied Pope. Mass should be celebrated according to instructions valid since 1570.

He denounced the new text of the Mass as a "bastard rite celebrated by bastard priests", and started an international traditionalist movement based on his own seminary in Ecône, Switzerland.

Since 1974, he has launched sharp attacks on the papacy, and in the 1970s acquired five chateaux in France to train more than 100 new recruits to the priesthood.

The Ecône seminary was banned in 1975, and Archbishop Lefebvre was suspended from his ministry as a priest and bishop.

A Jesuit go-between tried without success to moderate



A Zimbabwe police expert picking through debris in a crater left by a car bomb that injured 18 people, two seriously, in a car park in a suburban Harare shopping centre yesterday. One of those seriously injured when

the bomb exploded in the Avondale shopping centre two miles from the Harare city centre was Mr Jeremy Brickhill, aged 33, a prominent local anti-apartheid activist (Jan Raath writes). Mr Brickhill's wife Joan, aged

34, suffered lacerations. The other seriously injured was an unidentified young white man. Four other cars were wrecked when their petrol tanks caught fire, and windows up to 250 yards away were shattered. A spokes-

man for the Parirenyatwa Hospital said that five of the 18 injured had been detained in hospital, and the remainder released after treatment for shock, burns and lacerations. Mr Brickhill's condition was stable.

Foreign foes woo Americans on TV

From Charles Bremner, New York

Pity poor President Reagan. Just as the Great Communicator has been treated from press conferences and interviews, his chief foreign adversaries are taking to prime time television, selling themselves as regular guys to the American public.

Over the past month, American viewers have been wooed by two incarnations of hostile powers — Iran

● Flattery is the staple of video diplomacy. China and Iran laid it on thick ●

and Nicaragua — appealing over the heads of the Washington Administration.

And at the same time, the front men for Mr Reagan's old evil empire have stepped up their almost nightly displays of charm and reason on the nation's television sets. Spokesmen such as Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev and Mr Gennady Gerasimov, Moscow's Americanized Foreign Ministry man, are fast acquiring the familiarity of the networks' favourite pundits.

First prize in the ratings war went undoubtedly to President Ali Khamenei of Iran, the fire-breathing mullah who is usually at home on Fridays proclaiming "days of hate" against the Great Satan.

His image will probably never be the same after he spent an hour on Mr Ted Koppel's news show three days after the Americans seized the Iranian minelayer. Alternating gravity with a twinkling smile and pausing kindly for commercials, President Khamenei informed viewers from a New York studio: "We consider the American people some of the most hard-working, honest, serious and intelligent people of the world."

Such flattery is a staple of the new video-diplomacy. Chinese leaders laid it on thick when NBC's top-rated breakfast programme last month exported its team and broadcast its daily shows for an entire week live from Peking, complete with American weather forecasts and commuter time checks.

The image of the secretive Chinese leader was dealt a blow in another show last month when Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, appeared on *Meet the Press*, relaxed and in a business suit. The interviewer explained that China's effective number two man had "knocked back two beer" with him before the show.

Closer to home, President Ortega of Nicaragua has just spent three days in New York explaining to anyone with a video camera that his quarrel was not with the "North American" people. Public support for Contra funds probably slumped when the man

President Reagan calls a little dictator presented himself not in battle fatigues, but sporting Manhattan camouflage with designer suit and yuppie red tie.

After denouncing Mr Reagan at the United Nations for causing the deaths of thousands of Nicaraguans, Señor Ortega and his British-educated wife, Rosaria, did New York's media rounds and posed for photo-opportunities with baseball caps chatting with the citizens in a Bronx park.

● Moscow has the greatest firepower in the business of television image-making ●

The *New York Times* reported that some of the streetwise locals shunned the chance to shake hands with Nicaragua's first couple, fearing the whole thing was an elaborate "sting" operation by the New York police.

Señora Ortega, pregnant, pretty and 36 years old, upstaged her husband with a long interview on *Larry King Live* in which she came over as an articulate housewife who could have come out of the 1960s and suburban Connecticut.

The Russians have by far the biggest firepower in the business of TV image-making. Mr Gerasimov, who worked for years as a journalist in the United States, seems to live in a Moscow

television studio, available at all hours for live interviews. He is at ease with first names and idioms such as: "Let's not paint ourselves into a corner over this one, Steve," as he patiently explains the Kremlin's viewpoint for the thousandth time.

Another Soviet personality, Mr Vladimir Pozner of the state television and radio service, is far better known here than in his homeland. Brought up in the United States in the 1930s, Mr Pozner does wonders to comfort the widespread belief among ordinary Americans that the Russians are just like us.

Since his glib American Polish puts him in the league of the quiz show hosts, he tends to be relegated to daytime talk shows and provincial television stations.

Moscow pulled out its heaviest guns last month for an unprecedented two-hour discussion between senior Soviet officials in Moscow and congressmen in Washington, all mediated by the star ABC network anchorman, Mr Peter Jennings.

The occasion was not as successful as usual for the Russians because the congressmen challenged much of what their Soviet counterparts said. Up to now, courtesy seems to have deterred American interviewers from using against foreign officials the gladiatorial tactics that they normally apply to fellow-citizens.

Kenyan Asians held in swoop

Nairobi (Reuters) — Fourteen Kenyan Asian businessmen have been arrested in connection with foreign exchange offences as part of the Government's clampdown on the flight of capital.

Four other Asians appeared in court on charges of failing to remit to Kenya £17 million in proceeds from coffee sales.

Last week President Moi said Kenyan civil servants as well as Asian businessmen were involved in swindles to deprive the country of foreign exchange.

Kurdish raids

Diyarbakir, Turkey (Reuters) — Kurdish separatist guerrillas have killed 15 villagers and abducted seven others in raids over the past four days in south-east Turkey.

Honecker trip

Brussels (Reuters) — The East German leader, Herr Erich Honecker, on his third trip to Western Europe this year, arrived for a three-day state visit to Belgium expected to focus on bilateral trade and East-West relations.

Monkey safe

Moscow (Reuters) — A wayward monkey which broke partly free during a space experiment and began playing with equipment survived the landing of the descent module thousands of miles from its target zone.

Match riot

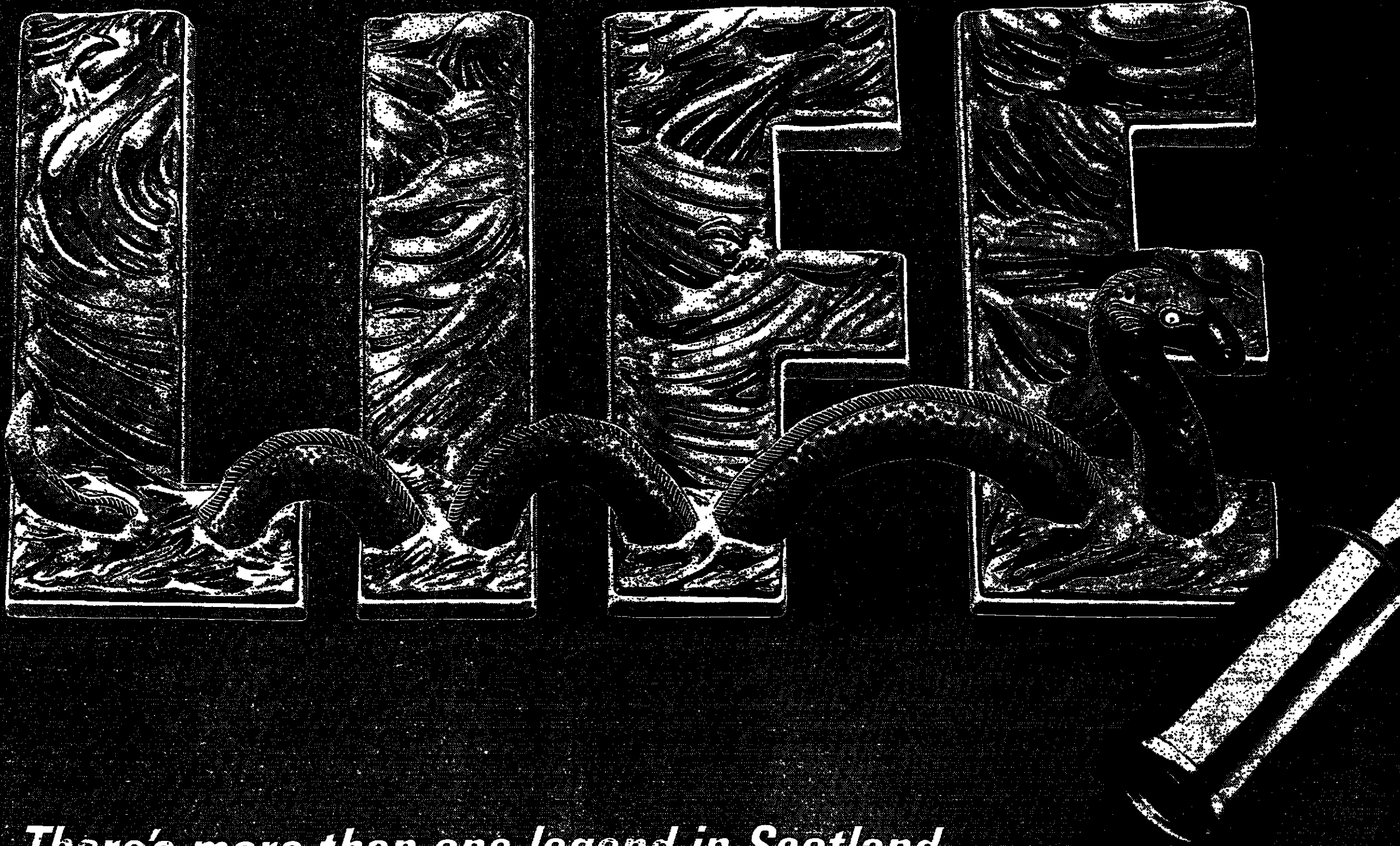
Dhaka (Reuters) — Nearly 170 people were injured and 50 arrested when Chittagong police battled with football fans armed with knives after a protest at a match which ended in a draw.

Agnelli hurt

Turin (AP) — The Italian car tycoon, Signor Gianni Agnelli, aged 66, broke his right thigh bone in a fall at his home.

Best friend

Copenhagen (Reuters) — A Danish dog lover, who has already spent two weeks in jail rather than give up a pet Alsatian, must stay in prison until he changes his mind and discloses the whereabouts of the dog.



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Scottish Life

SPECTRUM

With unpaid bills in Britain reaching record levels, Brian James looks at a more practical approach to helping the victims

The debts of despair

I came home from work. There was this note from Barry. My husband, who is a fireman. I thought it was to say he had gone to see his Mum. It said he was going to kill himself. . . He was sorry for what it would do to me, Paul and Julie, but we'd be better off without him. I was frantic. Then he phoned from Yorkshire. He couldn't go through with it . . . but he still sounded desperate.

I couldn't believe it when he started to explain. It was all about the money we owed. I knew he had been bad tempered, flew off the handle when I mentioned money, but I hadn't a clue how bad things were. We had a nice house in Bewdley, bit of a big mortgage, and then a second mortgage to do things up nicely. We'd

always used revolving credit, and I bought clothes from the catalogue, or on Barry's credit card. Then he told me that when his overtime had packed up, he had got desperate and started to try to borrow his way out of trouble.

We sat down and did the sums: £646 on the first mortgage, £176 on the second. Three other loans came to £908, then Barclaycard wanted £389.60p. For that, he was going to kill himself. At the Money Centre they got on to everyone, talked them into freezing interest, or taking what we could afford. It's still tough, but in another four years we'll be straight. The pressure nearly killed Barry, all because he didn't want to talk about money. Even to me.

Janette and her husband Barry were just one of the 800 new cases this year for the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre: debt in Britain has long been a rising tide but now even the lenders are having to help deal with the casualties washed up.

The need is demonstrated. The nation's consumer debt touches £30 billion. It is revealed that disconnection of non-payers by water boards has more than tripled in two years; disconnections by the gas boards have risen by 27 per cent this year alone. Most telling indicator comes from Birmingham's new Housing Debtline: since April, 556 despairing people have telephoned the council-run service, crying because they

were about to be evicted for failing to repay mortgages.

"The media myth is that all this pain is self-inflicted, a spend, spend, spend mentality," says Ann Andrews of the Money Advice Centre. "The reality is that failed small businesses, sickness or redundancy, or unexpected capital costs — as when the roof collapses from dry-rot — cause most crises. You simply cannot listen to most of my cases without thinking 'there but for the grace . . .'"

The hopeful new sign is that many of the sources of money, perhaps weary of accusations that they seduce the simple into debt, then chivy them to despair with collection methods, are now increasingly taking a role in the provision of remedial measures.

Cedar Holdings are the largest providers of second mortgages in Britain. Every year 45,000 new borrowers sign for loans, typically, £4,000 to £5,000, to install central heating, build a garage or extension (and frequently take the opportunity of consolidating other debts into one single great burden). And each year CH have to take possession of about 250 homes to reclaim their money, involving eviction orders in, perhaps, 50 cases.

"We are in an area of heartache," says managing director Brian Williams. "Telling someone they will lose their house is not like taking back a television set. The classic methods of regaining money owed, sending letters to borrowers and inviting them to discuss their problems, were not working: people will not come in or telephone voluntarily to talk over money problems. Their minds close. They become unable to communicate."

This year, CH have appointed 13 "conciliators" across the country whose only task is to detect signs of repayment difficulty and visit clients to offer a counselling service. "This is a drastic change in our approach," says Williams. "And the results have been equally dramatic."

"Our payments record is very, very much better. Yes we are primarily after our money, but our conciliators go armed with ways to help the client's overall problems. People simply do not know what help is awaiting them or how they can obtain it."

A similar point is made by Alan Birchall of the Burton Group. In July they set up a telephone helpline. Now 15 trained staff help deal with 200 calls a week from customers who have overspent on their store credit cards.

"The first thing our people tell callers is their own name — so there is no question of some disembodied voice poking

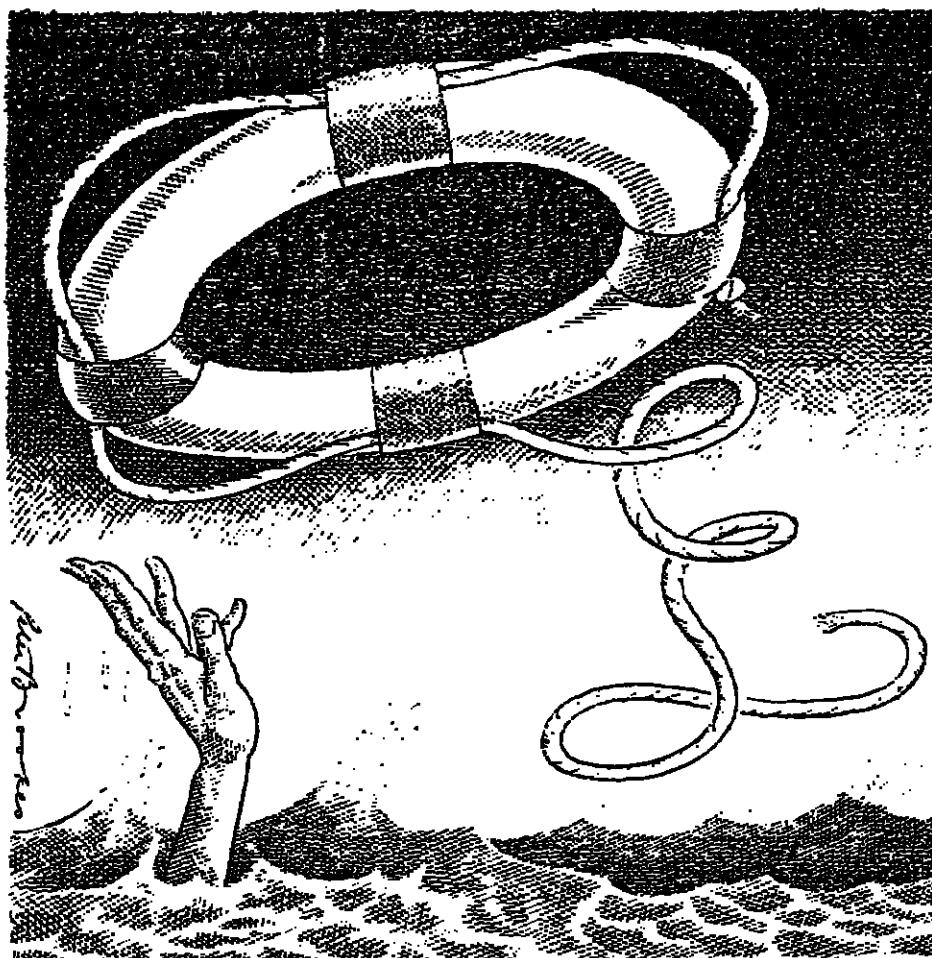
into their misery. And they don't start by demanding 'when can you pay us?'. We try to get out of people the full scale of their cash problems, so we can make sensible proposals. We are not a debt advisory service. But our people can tell worried customers where to go for help."

Mercantile Credit, who are helping fund a money advice centre in the South-east, and Access, who have paid the fees for an advice bureau worker to attend a college course for specialist finance training, are others who have responded. And though the Anglian Water Authority claimed last week that disconnection three times as many late-payers was a sensible new policy because visits were costly and unproductive, Thames Water insist that calling to talk over unpaid bills means that they now turn off the taps 600 times a year, instead of 3,000.

Liz Hodgen, of the Camden money centre, says: "It is too easy to get credit. And it is no use simply telling people in debt to stop smoking or send back the telly. Their problems will take years to sort out. People simply don't have that sort of resolve. More and more companies are recognizing both their own responsibility — and a need to help in a realistic way."

Ann Andrews adds: "Companies are helping for their own reasons. The hard-faced approach, picking collection office staff because they know how to 'get results' by being rude, doesn't work. It's just a pity that so few of the gas, water and electricity boards have got the message."

Both counsellors have faced across their desks men and women to whom debt has become a dangerous epidemic: they know that today, or tomorrow, Barry might leave the note . . . and then do what he threatens.



SOLVING THE CRISES

HOUSING

PROBLEM: Rising house prices and more home-owners — 62 per cent of homes are owner occupied — have sent borrowing soaring. In 1975 £25 billion was borrowed for house purchase; in 1984, £109 billion, and in 1986, £154 billion. The average building society new home mortgage is now £29,000. As home-owning grows, so do the number of homes being repossessed by building societies: 1979: 2,536; 1981: 4,240; 1985: 16,490; first quarter 1987: 11,620.

SOLUTION: Talk to your building society, says Adrian Coles of the Building Societies Association. Reviewing a family income and arranging appropriate instalment payments may be an answer.

RATES

PROBLEM: Total rates bill for England and Wales for financial year 1985-86 came to £15 billion and at the end of those 12 months £580 million was still outstanding. Top of the bad payers league was the London Borough of Lambeth with a staggering £33 million.

SOLUTION: Spread the load by monthly budget payments. Tell the local rating office if there are problems in meeting the bill. An instalment payment method may be proposed or a referral made to the DHSS.

ELECTRICITY

PROBLEM: Electricity cut-offs numbered 98,823 in 1986-87, a figure which has remained static in recent years. This represents 0.54 per cent of 20 million customers and means at any one time 0.11 per cent of all consumers were without electricity. The reconnection fee averages £12.

SOLUTION: Monthly budget payments are one solution. Another is to install a coin meter, paying with pre-paid plastic tokens.

GAS

PROBLEM: Gas cut-offs rose from 35,626 in 1985 to 53,111 last year, representing 0.35 per cent of 15 million customers.

SOLUTION: "If you cannot pay, talk to us first," says Gas Board spokeswoman Denise Creamer. As with the Electricity Board, top help priority is given to families with small children or elderly residents. Arrangements can be made to pay off existing backlog or families may be referred to Social Services. Last year £60 million-worth of fuel stamps were bought to pay for gas and electric bills.

WATER

PROBLEM: Water disconnections in England and Wales went up from 2,150 in 1984-85 to 7,400 in 1986-87. Anglian Water Authority disconnected 778 homes last year rising to 2,100 already this year.

SOLUTION: Thames Water Board, largest population authority, who collect £990 million from non-metered customers, believe in a "softly softly" touch with potential non payers. "We visited 22,000 homes last year, believing a personal approach and providing advice on how to pay is more positive than disconnection," said Alan King of Thames Water's finance department. "This is why we enclose a hardship message on all our bills, with a hotline phone number for financial help."

CREDIT CARDS

PROBLEM: On December 31, 1986 the nation owed £30.7 billion in HP and consumer credit, almost twice as much as four years previously — much undertaken on credit cards. Nor is there any sign of a slow down. In the first three months of this year consumer credit transactions totalling £764 million were arranged, compared with £644 and £513 million in the first quarters of 1986 and 1985 respectively. Barclaycard has grown from one million customers in 1986 to 8.7 million today. Charge cards like American Express also reflect consumer affluence with the number of UK card holders growing from 570,000 in 1980 to more than one million now.

SOLUTION: Prevention — 40 per cent of Barclaycard customers clear their balance immediately, one reason being tougher selection criteria. One in three applicants are rejected.

Suzanne Greaves

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1386

ACROSS

- 1 Viking vessel (8)
- 5 Tie (4)
- 9 Put down (7)
- 10 Tired out (3,2)
- 11 Artificial waterway (5)
- 12 Achieve (5)
- 13 Raw vegetable dish (5)
- 15 Twig broom (5)
- 16 Advantage (5)
- 18 English guitarist (5)
- 20 Teacher (5)
- 21 Curial (7)
- 23 Weeps (4)
- 24 Moderated (8)

DOWN

- 1 Account book (6)
- 2 Wedding (8)
- 3 Who Dares, Wins (1,1,1)
- 4 Continual, specialized nursing (9,4)
- 6 Part (4)
- 7 Needed (6)
- 8 Quintain Hogg (8)
- 11 Barrister's rooms (8)
- 14 Hermit's lover (8)
- 15 Cassius co-conspirator (6)
- 17 Screw helix (6)
- 19 Ticket section (4)
- 22 Knock (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1385

ACROSS: 1 Placid 5 Phoebe 8 Ill 9 Cosmic 10 Adroit 11 Cell 12 Innuendo 14 Alexander Pope 17 Ponytail 19 Ainsu 21 Babbie 23 Raider 24 Lag 25 Adonis 26 Eleven

DOWN: 2 Loose 3 Completely 4 Diction 5 Plain 6 Our 7 Build-up 13 Emphatic 15 Leonard 16 Enlarge 18 Axes 20 Nice 22 Bam

Murdered in their beds

Robin Jacques



A mystery parasite has been killing off Britain's oysters, but now researchers think they may have found an answer

For the last five years, a mysterious single cell parasite *Bosmina ostrinae* — has been spreading death and destruction along the shores of England. Although it does not infect humans, lovers of edible bivalves have good reason to fear it: the parasite is a mass murderer of *Ostrea edulis*, the English native oyster.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food admits "we are still ignorant of the salient features of the life cycle of this parasite". What is known is that it infects beds of cultivated oysters, invades the blood cells and destroys the immune system, killing 70-100 per cent of all three-year-old infected specimens.

The parasite arrived here in the autumn of 1982 in Cornwall and has since been identified in stocks of re-laid oysters in the Helford River in Cornwall, the Mersea and Colchester areas of Essex, Poole Harbour in Dorset, and in Hampshire.

Recently, though, some encouraging news has been reported from a laboratory in Washington state in the USA. Dr Ralph A. Elston of the Battelle Marine Research laboratory studied two groups of *Ostrea edulis* over a 46-week period. One group had been taken from a population infected with *Bosmina* for about 25 years, the other from a community not suffering from the disease.

At the end of the period, 99 per cent of the oysters from non-infected beds had died, but three-quarters of the others survived: the disease-resistant oysters were able to pass on their resistance to the next generation.

Although the road from laboratory to oyster bed is long and tortuous, it might now become practical to introduce disease-resistant oysters into commercial beds, restoring production in areas closed by the parasite.

Andrew Wiseman

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An icy welcome

It hasn't been the easiest of days. A tiresome meeting. A mad dash to the airport. And another meeting that seemed to go on for ever. Relax. You're booked into a Holiday Inn® hotel. Your friendly reception brings a smile to your face. There's no worry about your room, thanks to our Guaranteed All Night Reservations. And that long iced drink has never been so warmly welcome.



Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza hotels are the world's largest chain, covering 54 countries. There are 17 in the UK and 15 others in the main business centres of Europe. For reservations, call (01) 722 7755, your travel agent, or your nearest Holiday Inn hotel. Aberdeen · Birmingham · Bristol · Cardiff · Glasgow · Leicester · London Central (3) · London/Croydon · London/Heathrow · Manchester · Newcastle-Upon-Tyne · Plymouth · Portsmouth · Slough/Windsor · Swindon (Opening 1988)

Here's to success.

If you want to ignore this child's cries for help, put your hand over her mouth. (That's what her father does).

To muffle the sound of her screams Jane's father clamps his hand over her mouth. Then he rapes her.

She is six years old. With our help Jane was protected and is now being properly looked after.

But there are thousands of others like her, abused by their parents, ignored by family and neighbours who often refuse to acknowledge that there is even a problem.

They need your help. A donation of £20.66 can begin to provide protection for a sexually abused

child. So please don't cover up this advertisement. Instead place your hands on your cheque book.

I want to help protect a child and enclose my cheque or postal order.

£ £20.66 £41.32 £61.98

Account and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No.

Expiry date MONTH CAPITAL PLEASE

Name

Address

Postcode

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilman, R4 T14/16 NSPCC, FREEPOST, London EC1R 1QY.

Telephone donations, ring 01 262 1626. NSPCC

The card quoted here is a true example. Some details have been changed to protect the identity of the child.

THE TIMES DIARY

Cheque land

The perennially hard-up BBC has, I can reveal, unexpectedly landed a £12 million windfall from the collection of this year's licence fee. It is said that the man at Broadcasting House charged with the electronic equivalent of tearing open the bull envelope bearing the cheque was so stunned that he rang the Home Office to ask if it was a mistake. The extra cash — equivalent to the cost of two *Balkan Trilogies* or 160 *Blankety Blank*s — comes courtesy of the Post Office, which has managed to collect 230,000 more licences than last year and cut by a few million pounds the fee it charges for administering the collection and detecting evaders. The coup, which will be reported to Parliament next month, comes at an opportune moment for the Post Office. Last year's Peacock Committee report into BBC financing recommended that the BBC should put the annual collection out to tender.

Pension pinch?

The Church of England will face allegations at next month's General Synod that it has fixed its pension scheme to discriminate against religious organizations opposed to female ordination. In a financial reorganization to cut costs, eight priests are shocked to discover that their £1,200-plus annual pension contributions will not in future be waived while they work for church bodies. When I asked, the board was unable to name a single pro-female-ordination organization among almost 40 affected by a review's cost-cutting conclusion that church pensions should follow industrial practice. Roger Radford, its secretary, insists: "We are not concerned with an organization's policies." One appellant, Ross Thompson, who in June became general secretary of the Church of England, said: "If you believe the pension law when it says it is the luck of the draw, then you'll believe anything." The eight are taking their case to appeal.

More evidence, surely, of shifting political sands? One of Dr David Owen's staunchest supporters, SDP policy adviser Wendy Buckley, has quit to join the think tank of the right-wing Institute of Directors. Yet she assures me her move across the spectrum doesn't mean she has deserted her boss. "I'm still an SDP member and I'm anti-merger," she says.

Yob-watch

Football fans would be advised to be on their best behaviour tonight when England play Turkey at Wembley. Watching will be representatives of EEC police forces in London for an inaugural summit on football hooliganism. The delegates — attached to the anti-terrorist Trevi Group of Community ministers — went to work last year, under Douglas Hurd's chairmanship, exchanging intelligence on soccer violence. Joining the foreign law enforcers will be Assistant Chief Constable Ian Macgregor of the British Transport Police. He tells me it is an opportunity for the British to show off their policing of a major international. But he admits that he will be more interested in the policing than the match: "I prefer rugby myself." I suspect the Belgian representative will be keeping a closer watch on the fans' behaviour.

Circa '66



Who is this man? For all you who unconsciously hipped this mug is not that of John Lennon in his Sgt Pepper period but Sir Roy Strong. The outgoing and somewhat narcissistic director of the V&A, one of whose last shows is *The Royal Photographs of Sir Cecil Beaton*, is using a Beaton portrait of himself as part of the museum's latest mailshot. Last year the dapper aesthete tried to sell through the V&A shop a tapestry displaying him and his cat. Twenty were sold.

Holy writ

First it was doctors and lawyers. Now priests in America are being sued for damages. After shelling out \$1 million last year, 12 Roman Catholic dioceses in California, Nevada and Arizona have banded together to form their own insurance company to limit liability. Bruce Egenes, finance director of San Francisco archdiocese and director of the company, says small claims against churches have risen 60 per cent in a year. "Churches have a large number of small claims, such as people slipping on rice after weddings," he explains.

PHS

Strapped for the odd billion

Rodney Lord explains the forces that lead Thatcherite ministers to be spendthrifts

The innocent must be puzzled by the annual arguments over public spending now claiming their seasonal share of newspaper column inches. Why is it, they might ask, that firm plans agreed between departments and the Treasury in detail and after protracted negotiation 12 months earlier invariably prove to be inadequate? Why is it that the amount by which they are said to be inadequate always seems to be about £5 billion, always involves the same spending programmes and provokes the same Treasury responses?

Public spending for 1988-89 was set in last year's Autumn Statement by the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, at £154.2 billion. Although inflation will start next year no higher than expected, departments have as usual made bids totalling several billion pounds for extra spending. Some of these have been moved off the table during a month of hard bargaining between the new Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Major, and his spending colleagues, but some of the trickiest questions have had to be left for the "Star Chamber" committee, expected to start work this week.

As usual the same programmes have apparently been under-provided. An extra £800 million has already been added to local authority spending; forecasts of social security spending are said to be inadequate in spite of the "realism" built into the figures last year; the health service needs more; the generals and admirals claim that Britain's responsibilities are spreading the defence budget too thinly; and Scotland is putting forward its usual claims for special consideration.

Such is the buoyancy of revenue that some overrun on spending may not be as disastrous for the Chancellor's Budget as it might have been in previous years. Recent estimates suggest that even if total spending for next year is increased by £3-4 billion — nearly as much as this year's increase ahead of the election — the Chancellor may be able both to make a further substantial cut in borrowing and bring down taxes.

The ground has been prepared for an increase by agreeing in Cabinet in July that while every effort should be made to hit the cash targets the underlying aim should be to keep public spending falling as a percentage of national income. With the economy expanding as fast as it is that

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automatically provides some leeway. Nevertheless, the annual squabble over previously agreed spending totals leaves some room for doubt that the system of expenditure planning is the best available.

The design of the government machine must bear some of the responsibility. A system in which spending priorities are determined by inviting all the spending ministers to dream dreams and then trying to match these to the collective reality is almost bound to turn Thatcherite into spendthrifts. There is an incentive to bid high in the first place in the hope that he who bids highest will come out with most in the end.

But there is a more fundamental sense in which the system is inadequate. In all their discussions ministers in a sense are arguing about the wrong thing. The man in the street is not immediately concerned how many millions of pounds are being spent on his behalf — a number which he is in no position to assess — but on how good the service is. A government has to plan how much money it is going to spend so that it knows

how much to raise in taxes and how much to borrow. But in assessing priorities between programmes ministers should concentrate more on the quality of health care or education or defence, and the many different ways of improving it, rather than on how many millions of pounds are to be spent.

Better services (not necessarily public) will help to win votes, but it is not at all clear that spending more money by itself is an effective political instrument or even that not spending it carries political penalties. Public spending is higher in Scotland, on practically every conceivable measure than in the rest of Britain. But if public spending is the key to winning Tory votes in Scotland why are there so few of them?

Changing the currency in which the annual negotiations over public spending are conducted is a difficult task. The Treasury is not equipped for the job, which can only be done by changing the culture inside the spending departments themselves. Parliamentary select committees, academic research and the beneficiaries of public spending all have an important part to play in achieving that. The first spending round of a new Parliament is a good time to press the task forward.

However, the Overseas Students Trust, an independent research body, is campaigning for an increase in the number of foreign students, particularly from the Third World, to at least the 1979 level. It says universities and polytechnics should aim to recruit between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of their students from abroad.

Not everyone agrees. Aston University has recently withdrawn from the education counselling service. It says too many foreign students, especially if they are poorly qualified and concentrated in too few departments, can give an institution a bad name. It has steadily reduced its proportion of overseas students from 15 to 5 per cent.

The statistics show that although there are many outstanding candidates, a significant proportion of students from south-east Asia are admitted to British universities and polytechnics with no more than Ds and Es at A level. This helps explain why the National University of Singapore, a prestigious (and generously funded) institution with 15,000 students, takes a relaxed view of the increasingly hectic competition.

Mr Huan Tzu Hong, the registrar, explained: "Last year we had 14,000 applications for 5,000 places. We need the ones we want; the rest are for you. Some students want a British education, but most apply because their grades are not good enough to get in here."

Digby Anderson

Welfare targets they can't hit

There has recently been a flurry of reports and statements advocating radical reform of the welfare state. At last it looks as if Mrs Thatcher's third term might see some critical thinking on health, education and social security, thinking for which this column has long argued. Reform will not be easily achieved, and T.E. Uley, rightly pointed out last week the political obstacles to changes that will leave the lobbying middle classes having to pay directly for "services" in health and education.

This is not the main problem, however, with social security reform. It has been argued that if any part of the welfare state does redirect income from middle to lower classes, it is social security, though the same cannot be said for the combined effect of social security and income taxation. However, this does not mean that all who receive social security need it or that those who need it most receive most. Some "radical" reformers want to see social security "targeted" better so that it goes to those "in most need", and Mr John Moore's recent speech was interpreted as sharing this concern.

"Targeting" is but today's jargon for means testing and it revives the old quarrel between means testers who advocate highly selective state handouts and universalists who favour widely spread benefits. The division cuts across political beliefs while selectivity sits well with a "rightward" concern to cut "unnecessary" state handouts, treating each case on its own merits would require vastly increased case work and hence state bureaucracy not favoured by the "right".

Moreover, if benefit is withdrawn at a high rate for every pound earned and new earnings are taxed at a high standard rate, there is a disincentive to work. Universal benefits, on the other hand, are easy to administer and have neutral effect on incentive, but they spread relief very thin and are extremely expensive and wasteful. This expense is met through high taxation which is damaging to incentives in the economy.

However, you don't have to be a universalist to object to "targeting" those in greatest need. When you think about it, it is a very suspicious thing to advocate. It is one thing to be aware that many not in the gravest need receive handouts. It is quite another to suppose government is up to identifying particular cases of those in need.

knowledge about the measures which would relieve need. That, incidentally, is one of the main arguments against nationalized welfare.

Not only do politicians not know who needs what, they need, anyone who has any understanding of markets will appreciate that there is not a given stock of people "in need" waiting to be identified, attended to and ticked off from the list. People move into "need" not least when handouts appear. Social interference in the form of state payments changes the very distribution of needs; it seeks to respond to it, it creates need.

The word "targeting" is itself a giveaway. It is a manager's term. More, a planner's term. It suggests that if politicians and bureaucrats do their homework well, if enough commissions are appointed, if the sums are carefully checked, or enough computers brought in, then the reduction of social security can be managed so that no specified groups with pre-specified "needs" are affected in pre-specified ways and will respond in pre-specified fashions. Not only is there no evidence that change can be engineered by governments in this way but the belief it can is about as far from being either new or "radical" as you can get.

There is no contradiction in a free-market-leaning government intervening to reduce accepted government intervention. Obviously only political action can remove the political empire which former politicians have built up. But it is contradictory to argue that it should be removed because politicians are not competent or efficient at organizing and managing that intervention, then claim to be able to organize and manage its reduction in a finely tuned way.

There is a very respectable case for cutting the vast empire of social security, but it is simply not true to suggest the effect of the cut can be accurately targeted. We may conclude that a society with less state welfare will be better off overall, but we don't and cannot know exactly who will fare well and badly in that society. It is fraudulent to issue guarantees or indeed to wait for guarantees before acting. To those who ask how we can be sure that this or that group might not be worse off, the answer is — we can't.

however... Pearson Phillips

Rescued from Postman Pat

When bed-time came the children said goodnight, and left. Extraordinary, I then began to notice other things, abnormal things. Where was the whining noise that goes with children demanding "something to do"? Why were they smiling and laughing all the time? Why were they so concerned about keeping us all entertained, acting plays for our amusement, remembering all our names and offering us chocolate biscuits?

After a week in the company of this pair of sub-10-year-olds I decided that something very rum was going on. These children actually seemed to thrive on human company, old and wrinkled though we were. Were they aliens, disguised as children, programmed by people who had access only to *Swallows and Amazons* and *The Railway Children*? They did seem to have a timeless quality about them. The dreaded syllables "Postman Pat" weren't uttered once.

discouraged by a sinister ruling body called The Committee. People just sit in their chairs in front of their screens all day, having food provided for them at set times automatically.

We seem to be... oh, excuse me a moment, here comes the sandwich trolley, yes, one cheese and pickle and one ham and salad, thanks... where was I? Oh yes, we seem to be galloping down that road.

The market in minds



Paula Youngs

potential students. One evening, 700 crowded into a hotel ballroom for a presentation that began with a glossy British Council video called *Degrees of Excellence*, which underlines the range, quality and prestige of a British degree. The council says the response was overwhelming.

The international competition is real enough. There are estimated to be more than one million "mobile" students worldwide. Britain is not the only country to have identified south-east Asia as one of the richest markets.

Japan is planning a tenfold increase in overseas student numbers. In Australia, the millionaire Alan Bond is building the country's first private university at Surters Paradise principally to attract Asian students. Publicly funded universities are promoted throughout the region by the

government's hard-selling trade commission. In Macao, the private University of East Asia busily recruits students from all round the Pacific rim. American universities dispatch hundreds of senior officials on annual recruiting drives to Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

In the face of so much activity, the British Council says Britain needs to run hard just to stand still. It is pressing the government to fund what amounts to a higher education export drive, arguing that it is the nation which benefits in the long run: that when graduates return to their home countries and rise to positions of influence they will favour British goods and services and support Britain diplomatically. The government does not disagree. It spends nearly £100 million a year on overseas scholarships.

John Cooney on the changed political fortunes of the Irish Prime Minister

'Haugheynomics' pays dividends

tough economic programme has been implemented, and has been accepted almost with enthusiasm by a range of groups which had hitherto dogged any attempt to reform the economy.

Described as "Haugheynomics", Haughey's philosophy is unabashedly capitalist, if lacking the ideological purity of Thatcherism in its readiness to espouse traditional Keynesian intervention in the market economy. Though criticized by the Labour Party and the Progressive Democrats, the economic strategy has been approved generally by Alan Dukes, the Fine Gael leader and successor to FitzGerald.

weaknesses, means that Haughey can now concentrate on Northern Ireland, the political priority during his previous period in office. It is sometimes forgotten that in 1980 it was Haughey who began the process with Mrs Thatcher that led to the Anglo-Irish agreement five years later. In between, he had major differences with Mrs Thatcher over the H-block hunger strike and the Falklands War. But at the EEC summit in Brussels last June he re-established their working, if cool, relationship.

Haughey must now decide whether or not to implement an anti-terrorist extradition law from December 1. He is under strong pressure from all parties, including his own, in the Dail and from Roman Catholic leaders, not to do so unless Mrs Thatcher agrees to fundamental reform of the judicial system in Northern Ireland.

What will happen to them? They'll get on very well, I should think.

There is a story by E.M. Forster called *The Machine Stops*. It was his only science fiction work, inspired by H.G. Wells. It looks forward to the time when everyone lives alone in an underground honeycomb of comfortable cells, with all their needs provided for by The Machine. Nobody actually visits anybody any more. They "exchange ideas" through their "screens". Visits to "Outside" are



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

PRIZE PIETY

President Arias of Costa Rica deserves a prize. The prize he should receive is for being one of the small, though happily growing, number of Latin American rulers who must submit to election and who preside over a recognisably liberal polity. The prize he should not have been given is the one he received yesterday for his work for peace in Central America.

To say this is to mean no disrespect to President Arias personally. It is the idea of peace prizes for politicians which is at fault. The Nobel peace prize suited Albert Schweitzer, who received it in 1952, Mother Teresa (1979) and Dr Andrei Sakharov (1975). None of these was a politician. Their work had about it a disinterested quality. In the eyes of the world, such people stand for large and timeless values removed from specific political programmes or systems or national interests.

But the politician is a different animal. He lives in a realm which is altogether more realistic, calculating – murkier, even. When he makes a treaty with another power, he is generally serving his own national interest – sometimes just his own personal interest in his struggle against his domestic opponents. Peace may be the result. If so, the world benefits from his actions. But peace is not necessarily what motivates him. His actions do not have the same disinterest as those of a father Teresa.

Peace generally comes about as a result of a balance of power between those who might otherwise go to war with one another – a sad truth, but one which this fallen world has not been able to disprove. There are plenty of riots and circumstances in which generals and cunning diplomats make a greater contribution to peace than the more high-minded figures who are likely to attract the admiration of equally high-minded Scandinavian juries.

Talleyrand, servant of Napoleon though he is, was ever anxious to betray or outwit his superior when he thought it might serve the use of peace for France. Such a cynic would

never have won a Nobel prize, though he helped win the long, relative peace among the post-Napoleonic great powers.

President Arias receives his prize for his Central American peace plan. Its essence was that all the countries in the region should stop trying to subvert one another and stop receiving weapons from the United States and the Soviet Union. Admirable sentiments.

It might work. If it does, it will be because the only one among the regimes which subscribes to the doctrine of exporting revolution – Nicaragua – is temporarily too exhausted to do much more exporting and has already done all the subverting it needs to secure its domestic power. And Nicaragua will have no difficulty receiving Soviet weapons through intermediaries.

The award is another example of the way in which signatories of peace treaties are widely regarded as automatically contributing to peace and qualifying for the peace prize. Dr Kissinger and Mr Le Duc Tho, of North Vietnam, jointly received the Nobel prize for negotiating a peace treaty in Vietnam. North Vietnam violated the treaty and occupied South Vietnam, imposing the system which is the author of that country's present poverty. But that was the year after the peace prize had been awarded.

By these standards, Molotov and Ribbentrop would have qualified for the award had their handiwork not been followed by war so quickly. The Churchill of the 1930s, who believed that peace could be secured only by Britain and France rearming, would not have qualified. In fact, after the war which his treaty helped unleash, Molotov was indeed recommended for a Nobel. So, at various stages in their careers, were Mussolini and Stalin.

Is it all so absurd as to be harmless? No. It is dangerous. It encourages mankind to believe that peace is really served by those who strike postures and hope for the best rather than those who scorn the pieties of Scandinavia and secure their countries against the worst.

THE SINKING OF ILEA

Too many children, the Prime Minister noted last week, have been cheated of the right start in life by a poor education. One need look no further for proof of that than inner London, on those responsible for running the Inner London Education Authority now admit. If, in private, that most of the 140 comprehensives attended by more than 1,000 of the capital's children are "sink" schools – the sort of places, in other words, in which children's chances.

come in the authority, including many of its senior administrators, have known his educational catastrophe for years. They have even proposed some sensible and familiar reforms: a core curriculum, regular testing, an emphasis on the quality of education instead of obsession with anti-racist and anti-sexist initiatives. It has all been to no avail. Some of the reforms have been undermined by teachers' union and working to rule. But most have been blocked by the Left under the guise of ending comprehensive education.

It is fair, the disaster has not gone unnoticed by its perpetrators. Mr Neil, who is not only the leader of the ILEA, the education spokesman for the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, recently lectured the party faithful at the need to respond to parents' fears. "I bluntly," he said, "those fears are that comprehensive education as currently provided does not stretch and challenge children enough or provide them with the essential skills needed for survival in the modern world." He even suggested that urban authorities should follow the American model – shamedly "elitist" according to standard A thinking – of setting up specialist "gift" schools.

The sight of sinners coming to repentance is to be a tribute to the Government's morals. In ILEA's case, however, it could only be an attempt to head off reform. We see the light, the authority will claim, so it is really no need to let the boroughs opt out. Furthermore, the plan has already brought to the brink of administrative breakdown.

WHEN THE RHETORIC STOPS

Young wants to reorganize the work of the new department, Trade and Industry, so it is equipped to cope with the "problems" rather than providing the safety net. The rhetoric is welcome, as far as it goes, and can be applied with advantage to the DTL. The challenge will be to turn principles into action.

Government which believes in free enterprise should naturally concentrate more on DTL's Trade responsibilities – politically "sensitive" but – and less on its industry business – the glamour of spending taxpayers' money on high-profile projects. Regulation, necessary, is a proper responsibility of government. Consumers must be protected, competition preserved. But the role of government has never sat easily with the role of industry.

Government has already cut the DTL 1, but subsidies of one kind or another to the DTL industry still total at least £100 million a year. Lord Young has said that he wants to look much more closely at the economic output achieved by these subsidies. Good. But there are strong forces ranged against him: not least there are the bells which are rung for constituency interest and electoral prestige.

There is anything which Government can do for industry apart from handing it money? Lord Young believes there is. So long as Government does not take the strategic decisions which should be left to industry there is for Government to play an "enabling

role. This is particularly true for small businesses.

The scope for sharing information and central services has been dimly recognized for some time. It was part of the *raison d'être* of the little Neddies now being culled by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson. Lord Young's answer is to market more energetically the information and services which the DTL itself can provide.

Whereas cash has been misapplied on a heroic scale over the decades, exhortation has been generally harmless. It may even do some good. There is, for example, a great deal to be done in improving the links between industry and education. One does not need to believe that the curriculum should be determined solely by industry's managers to concede that a more vocational approach could benefit both industry and its future employees.

There is also a job to be done in organizing industry in the run-up to completing the internal market in the EEC in 1992. It will not help Britain if the only standards adopted are German.

New directions are much beloved of new ministers and it remains to be seen whether a year from now there has been any detectable shift in the culture of the DTL. None the less, it would be heartening to hear a similar determination in other corners of Whitehall. For instance, once the Department of Energy has privatized its major responsibilities, will it do the decent thing and vote itself out of existence?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alarms curb could harm elderly

From Lady Saltoun

Sir, The draft housing benefit regulations for April, 1988, soon to be debated in Parliament, will change the rules applying to the provision of emergency dispersed alarms for frail, elderly and disabled people.

At present, those requiring alarms who are on low income can get help through housing benefit, with service charges levied to cover the cost of providing an alarm and warden support, whether they live in sheltered housing or in their own homes in the community.

It is proposed that, from next April, housing benefit help will be confined to those living in specially-built sheltered housing or disabled persons' housing and will not be given to those who remain in ordinary flats and houses. This proposal is framed in paragraph 1 (c) of schedule 1 of the draft regulations, which have been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Emergency alarms linked to perimeter warden are an effective way of enabling vulnerable elderly people to call for help whilst living alone in their own homes. A large percentage have low incomes and cannot afford the cost of these alarms.

It is true that, under section 2 of

the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, there is a duty imposed on local authorities to provide "additional facilities designed to secure... greater safety, comfort or convenience" of such persons resident in their area. Nevertheless, various organisations involved with the provision of these alarms are gravely concerned that some local authorities will fail to provide them, due to lack of funds, and some local authorities have already said that after April, 1988, they will be unable to provide alarms for those who cannot afford to pay for them.

The proposals in the draft regulations are inconsistent with the Government's commitment to care in the community and also very shortsighted, since the cost of an alarm is up to £5 per week, whereas the cost of residential or nursing home accommodation is up to £175 per week and sheltered housing, where available, is also much more expensive.

If the Government do not want to pay the cost of these alarms through housing benefit, then they should either do so through the income-support scheme or some form of reimbursement of costs to the local authorities. Yours faithfully, SALTOUN, House of Lords, October 9.

Link with China being weakened

From Professor F.J. Wallace, FEng

Sir, Having just returned from my third extended lecture tour in China, in the course of which I have visited seven departments of mechanical engineering in four major cities as well as a number of engine factories, it is with considerable concern that I note the declining role which we appear to be playing in the development of that vast country.

Of the enormous good will of Chinese engineers and scientists towards Britain there can be no doubt, but it is evident that they are turning increasingly to Germany, the United States and Japan, both in the academic field with which I am particularly concerned and, perhaps even more importantly, in their industrial development.

Our very high overseas student fees have resulted in a marked decline in the number of post-graduate students sent to us, while Germany, the United States and Japan not only welcome these students but, through various government and private agencies, provide generous financial sup-

port. Our British Council, on the other hand, finds its resources stretched to breaking point as Government support for its academic activities is eroded year by year.

In the very important field of automotive engineering joint ventures are being launched on an ever-increasing scale with German, American and Japanese companies, with large-scale technical and financial backing.

There is still time to recover something of our potential share of this vast market, but it will require a very determined effort, on the part of Government by abandoning its policy of extreme parsimony, the universities by entering more enthusiastically into joint academic arrangements and industry in pursuing much more aggressively the vast opportunities which exist.

Yours faithfully, F.J. WALLACE, University of Bath, School of Mechanical Engineering, Claverton Down, Bath, Avon, October 9.

An Oxford appeal

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Sir, I am glad that *The Times* (report, October 10; *Spectrum*, October 12) has drawn attention to Oxford University's plan to raise additional money from private sources. Oxford has many projects involving expansion and development of areas of academic excellence. We need extra money to sustain the base and to fund the growth.

Independence and autonomy are also essential for the intellectual vigour of a university. Overdependence on public funding (now increasingly earmarked) is, therefore, undesirable. So we need money for general endowment and for specific purposes.

Let me give an impression of what has been given that Oxford is on the verge of bankruptcy. I must make clear certain facts about our financial position. Our grant from the University Grants Committee was cut last year and further cumulative cuts have been promised annually until 1989-90.

A year ago it was possible to envisage that, on the gloomiest possible projections, there might be a shortfall in income of some £10 million a year. We have not planned on a "worst-case" basis, but we have introduced a severe retrenchment programme involving 11 per cent cuts overall for the very purpose of ensuring that by 1990 our expenditure will match our currently projected income (making no allowance for appeal income).

The question of "bankruptcy" does not, therefore, arise; nor do we envisage annual deficits of income against expenditure after 1990 – let alone deficits of the order of £10 million a year. We are taking care to see that our reserves will not be exhausted.

Finally, I should add that we have not yet determined the precise target figure to be raised by the appeal which is to be launched next year. It will clearly be large. Yours etc, PATRICK NEILL, University of Oxford, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford, October 13.

Sign posts

From Mr Michael Morgan

Sir, As a young sub-editor at Reuters in the early 1950s I remember "the shark-infested Timor Sea" appeared regularly in stories emanating from our Asian desk.

Without looking at a map I couldn't place it exactly, but I certainly knew it was a place to steer clear of. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MORGAN, 1 Larch Road, NW2, October 12.

Giving the elbow

From the Curator of the Dickens House Museum

Sir, Perhaps the closest observer of human behaviour in the 19th century indicates quite clearly that competent coachmen would have blushed at the thought of not being able to make a hand free (letters, October 6, 10).

In chapter 28 of *Pickwick Papers*, Mr Pickwick and friends travel by stage-coach to Rochester. On a straight stretch, the coachman, holding whip and reins in one hand, takes off his hat with the other, and resting it on his knees, pulls out his handkerchief, and wipes his forehead, partly because he has a habit of doing it, and partly because it is as well to show the passengers how cool he is, and what an easy thing it is to drive four-in-hand when you have had as much practice as he has.

Dickens doesn't indicate how a coachman might get a friend during a tricky manoeuvre. Perhaps then the elbow came into play.

Yours faithfully, DAVID PARKER, Curator, The Dickens House Museum, 48 Doughty Street, WC1.

From Mr James Oxley-Brennan

Sir, In *Tom Brown's Schooldays* Thomas Hughes writes of coachmen passing one another "with the accustomed lift of the elbow". Yours faithfully, JAMES OXLEY-BRENNAN, 2 Albury Walk, Eaton, Norwich.

Coup in Fiji

From Mr H. P. Hall

Sir, Dr C. F. Forsyth (October 2) appears to have overlooked the fact that the Queen also headed "the lawful government of Sierra Leone" in March, 1967, when Major Charles Blake and a number of army officers established a National Reformation Council, dissolved the House of Representatives and all political parties and prohibited membership of political parties. The Governor General was forced to leave the country.

There was also a coup in Grenada in March, 1979, when the 1974 Constitution was suspended and the Peoples Revolutionary Government set up a Peoples Consultative Assembly to draft a new Constitution. In that coup the Governor General was not removed.

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, came into existence as a result of rebellion (assisted by India) in 1971 and joined the Commonwealth in 1972, which led to Pakistan leaving it.

The Commonwealth has no legal definition. It is a free association of sovereign nations which once formed part of the British Empire. A coup is a coup is a coup in whichever country it occurs as it involves changing the Constitution by unconstitutional methods, sometimes involving considerable bloodshed.

Fiji is not yet a formal republic and many of us who know Fiji hope that the Governor General, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, can devise an acceptable Constitution. Military intervention by Australia and New Zealand, as advocated by Dr Forsyth, will certainly not help. Yours faithfully, H. P. HALL, Robina, The Chase, Ringwood, Hampshire, October 2.

Access to books

From the Director General Bibliographic Services, The British Library

Sir, Mr David Whitaker's suggestion (October 3) that, instead of itself creating bibliographic records for the library community from the copyright deposit intake, the British Library should buy in catalogue records from the other two English copyright deposit libraries, makes very little sense.

At present both Oxford and Cambridge are customers of the National Bibliographic Service and are as much affected by the shortfall in timeliness with which the British Library's current "action plan" is intended to deal as the rest of the library community.

If we were to reverse the relationship, and the British Library became a customer of one or other of them, we should simply be exporting the problem from an institution which has a clear national function in this area to one which has neither the commitment nor the equipment to deal with it.

His further suggestion that we take catalogue data from the Library of Congress and edit it for UK use is scarcely novel. We have been doing this since 1977.

Finally, those who think like Mr Fleming, with whom this correspondence began (September 11), that the Library of Congress catalogue books more rapidly than the British Library, should note that this is true only to the extent that it relies more comprehensively on a "cataloguing in publication" programme of the kind which both Professor Sir Geoffrey Elton (September 25) and Mr Whitaker, who supports him, apparently believe British publishers are incompetent to handle. The British Library does not share their view.

Yours faithfully, P. R. LEWIS, Director General of Bibliographic Services, The British Library, 2 Sheraton Street, W1.

European defence

From Mr W. T. Hutton

Sir, In recent days, contributions in your columns from Lord Carrington (report, October 6) and Sir John Nott (articles, October 5 and 6) underline the urgency of a new approach to Europe's defence posture.

The issue we must face immediately, however, is the need for some real leadership in finding new cohesion and self-respect in Western Europe. For almost half a century Europeans have been content to shelter under the umbrella of US aid or support. Now that great country has impending problems south of its own borders and across the Pacific which will inevitably absorb more attention in the years ahead. For how much longer can we expect yet unknown American presidents to station men and material in a Europe which makes the minimum of effort to secure its own defence?

Potentially, Western Europe is a superpower of unprecedented proportions and significance, which should be capable of regarding threats from any quarter as

morally binding on the taker. Certain moralists have held that it is others' words most certainly say that it was not.

Finally, there is the consideration for Christian believers that the founder of their religion denounced oath-taking (Matt. v. 33-37) and that attempts made to explain away the veto are singularly unconvincing.

In these circumstances the only honest course is to abolish the oath and to rely on the very considerable powers of the courts to impose penalties on those who refuse to answer or who answer falsely.

Yours faithfully, GERALD BONNER, University of Durham, Department of Theology, Abbey House, Palace Green, Durham, October 9.

derisory. Surely in a marriage of defence interests between Britain and France we still have one nucleus of some real progress? In this century Churchill and de Gaulle, albeit in their different ways, have alone had the necessary vision of a Europe with a purpose.

It seems sad at this hour that our once great country cannot seem to rise above an obsession with tax cuts to take the lead which Europe needs.

In a renewed commitment to our own and to European defence we could salvage both pride and economy to become part of a force to be reckoned with, rather than a supplicant to be suppressed. Let us start before others attempt either to bargain us away or lull us into a false sense of security in their own interests.

If we fail to act in Europe it will be to our eternal shame since both our culture and our economy will suffer irreparable loss. Posterity deserves better than this. Yours sincerely, W. T. HUTTON, 8 Sutherland Avenue, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, October 7.

ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 14 1939

In the first weeks of the Second World War public entertainments were drastically curtailed. German bombs fell on the Zoological Gardens on more than one occasion. The story is told that when the zebra house was hit three zebras were freed and were rounded up by the Secretary of the Zoological Society, Dr Julian Huxley, in dressing gown and pyjamas.

A WAR-TIME ZOO STOCK OF ANIMALS RETAINED

From Our Special Correspondent

Large numbers of the public still believe that the London Zoo is closed, in spite of many notices in the Press to the contrary and a recent broadcast. Actually the Gardens were only closed in the early days of September, and have now been open again for a month. The public have the further impression that many of the Zoo's important animals have been destroyed or evacuated. The actual fact is that an ordinary visitor to the Gardens to-day would scarcely notice any difference in its stock of animal inhabitants. The comprehensiveness and completeness of the collection has been in no way impaired by the destruction of a few redundant and mostly elderly animals. In the aquarium and reptile house alone can any serious change be noticed.

As for evacuation, this has taken place on a small scale, and the only notable absenteees are the giant pandas and the riding elephants. All the rest of the Zoo's rare and curious creatures are still at Regent's Park, and the Zoo authorities have no intention of letting them go.

This week some of those few who were originally evacuated to Whipsnade have returned to Regent's Park. These include the two orang-utans, some spoonbills, caracaras and tamarisks, as well as a fine group of eight crowned pigeons, which are now housed in the pheasantries. This return does not mark any change of policy, since the birds had been sent to Whipsnade for the summer weather only, and the orang-utans had only left until such time as the monkey house had settled down to a routine suitable to its reduced staff.

RELEASED BIRDS

A few birds of a kind which could safely be trusted to look after themselves have been released in Regent's Park. These include some kites; yesterday one was flying over the Gardens much to the interest of a flock of crows. Although it could not be said to have been mobbing the kite, was following it about intently. A pair of kestrels have also been released, several jays, magpies, and jackdaws, and some of the common herons from the southern aviary. One of these last-named birds attracted attention from members of the public crossing one of the bridges over the Regents Canal. The bird was stalking majestically along the kerb of the canal catching immovable small dace with swift darts of its beak...

WAR BABIES

Among the first war babies at the Zoo were a pair of twin African crested porcupines, of which the survivor is doing extremely well. When born, these creatures are at an advanced stage and are minute replicas of their parents, with their eyes open and a disposition to scurry about quite fast. Though porcupines are born with what appears to be their full complement of quills, and with the power of raising them at will, yet these quills are quite soft and pliable to start with, and take about a fortnight to harden properly. The baby porcupine in the small mammal house at the moment has just reached this stage.

The Society's Library is now open again to Fellows after its statutory month for cleaning. In this case, however, cleaning has meant a very large reorganisation. Many of the valuable runs of journals (which make the Zoo one of the most comprehensive private zoological libraries in the world) have been moved to the basement, and a new temporary index has been prepared, so that Fellows will have little delay in getting the books they want. As previously reported, a few (but only a few) irreplaceable books have been transferred to a safe place in the country...

It's that word again

Alice Thomas Ellis ponders on expletives deleted

Tory talent-spotter

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STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1847.4 (+12.2)
FT-SE 100
2350.2 (+11.7)
Bargains
37493 (38499)
USM (Datastream)
229.21 (+1.05)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8480 (-0.0085)
W German mark
2.9957 (-0.0023)
Trade-weighted
73.3 (-0.1)

Governor
warns on
takeovers

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, yesterday said that the Bank would retain a large degree of discretion in deciding who was "fit and proper" to own a bank under the terms of the Banking Act.

He did not support commercial and industrial companies taking over banks in Britain.

The clearing banks would also be protected from foreign ownership. *Comment, page 27*

Power placing

The placing of shares in Power Corporation, the Dublin-based property developer seeking a full listing in London and Dublin, was several times oversubscribed. James Capel and Goodbody James Capel placed 13.6 million ordinary shares at IR123p (110p) to raise IR16.7 million. *Temps, page 26*

BM soars

BM Group, the Midlands construction equipment company where CH Beazer has a 25.8 per cent stake, more than doubled profits in the year to end-June, from £2.31 million to £5.09 million. A final dividend of 1.4p makes 2.3p for the year. *Temps, page 26*

Float denial

Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, denied Press reports that he was planning to float the bank publicly on the Geneva stock exchange. He said the banking group would remain privately owned for the foreseeable future.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2478.13 (+6.85)
Nikkei Average 26400.83 (+115.98)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 3841.28 (-58.88)
Amsterdam Gen 302.7 (-0.3)
Sydney AO 2166.9 (-16.1)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1957.2 (+24.8)
Brussels
General 4938.7 (-55.7)
Paribas CAC 388.5 (-6.5)
Zurich SGA Gen 895.2 (+6.5)
London
FT-A All-Share 1210.87 (+5.17)
FT-30 1315.10 (+6.88)
FT-Gold Mines 447.6 (-4.7)
FT-Fixed Interest 92.27 (+0.03)
FT-Govt Secs 86.78 (+0.15)
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MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSES
BSC Circle 483p (+17p)
BM Group 495p (+25p)
Advest Group 352p (+13p)
J Halstead 300p (+30p)
Carlyle 581p (+15p)
Jaguar 983p (+22p)
Greene King 490p (+35p)
Vesta 450p (+20p)
B Matthews 153p (+12p)
Woolworth 384p (+12p)
Trafalgar House 135p (+10p)
Guardian Royal 1083p (+30p)
Southend Stadium 312p (+33p)
Ashted Group 545p (+40p)
Pell Holdings 585p (+20p)
Meredith Resources 945p (+90p)
FALLS
Boddingtons 217p (-11p)
Glaxo 1485p (-81p)
Midsummer Leisure 497p (-13p)
Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 10% 10%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2% 9 1/2%
buying rate
US Prime Rate 9 1/2%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 6 7/4-6 7/2%
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.8480
£ DM1.9557
£ Sfr2.4838
£ FF9.9830
£ Yen236.53
£ Index73.3
ECU £0.663297 SDR £0.782068

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$459.55 pm \$459.20
close \$459.50-460.00 (\$279.00-279.50)
New York
Comex \$459.50-460.10

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov) pm \$18.50/bbl (\$18.70)
Denotes latest trading price

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Widespread legal implications of share-price support operation
Untangling the Guinness web

By Lawrence Lever

The eight charges against Mr Gerald Ronson and the 37 new charges against Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness, have widespread implications for all those involved in the multi-million pound share-price support operation which enabled Guinness to win Distillers.

They could also expose Guinness to substantial legal claims by former Distillers shareholders.

Morgan Grenfell, Morgan Grenfell Laurie, (formerly chaired by Mr Elliott Bernerd), LE Rothschild, Henry Ansbacher, Heron, Erlanger & Co (a subsidiary of S&W Berisford) and Mrs Seuberg-Simon, the sister of "Black" Jack Dellar, the property and fringe banking tycoon, are all mentioned in the charges.

The exact nature of their involvement has yet to be ascertained. S&W Berisford claims that the fees it received from Guinness were solely for barrier trading.

Mr Saunders and Mr Ronson both face charges of theft — in Mr Saunders' case of stealing about £20 million, most of which was paid out to participants in the share-price support operation.

Mr Ronson has been charged with stealing the £5.8 million which was paid to companies within the Heron Group — but subsequently repaid — for their role in supporting the Guinness share price.

Significantly, both men face charges of conspiring to create a false market in Guinness shares so as to induce Distillers shareholders to accept the Guinness bid. If proven, these criminal charges could open the way for widespread civil actions against Guinness by disgruntled former Distillers shareholders.

Both men face charges of false accounting under the Theft Act for which the maximum punishment is seven years' imprisonment. The false accounting charges relate to the preparation of allegedly false or misleading invoices.

Key role in inquiry
for Fraud Squad

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard's investigation into the Guinness affair is being carried out by a 15-man team drawn from the Fraud Squad and based at Holborn police station close to the City.

The unit is led by Det Chief Supt Richard Botright, one of the squad's senior officers, working with a specialist fraud unit of lawyers within the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The detectives have had access to the evidence gathered by the DTI inspectors and are also working with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

These are thought to total around £100 million.

The report criticizes the Bank of England for some of its tactics, notably the decision to cut the price of the 8 per cent Treasury 1991 tap the day before the August 6 rise in base rates.

"Throughout the year, the Bank's operations have at times been surprising, confusing and occasionally incomprehensible," the report says. But such tactics will exact a cost, the report continues, as market-makers with burnt fingers become ever more reluctant to accommodate the Bank.

The report contains no firm estimates of losses by the market-makers. However,

used to support payments to participants in the share-price support operation.

In Mr Ronson's case, they relate to payments received by Heron companies. However, Mr Saunders has been linked in the charges to invoices issued by several of the participants in the support operation.

Mr Saunders faces five charges under section 151 of the Companies Act 1985 which makes it a criminal offence to provide financial assistance to enable a company to buy its own shares. Mr Ronson faces one section 151 charge.

Mr Saunders also faces a charge of stealing £1 million from Guinness on December 16, 1986, 15 days after the inspectors moved into Guinness.

The multi-million pound share-price support operation for Guinness shares spanned three continents and involved the payment by Guinness of millions of pounds to supporters by way of indemnities or success-related fees.

The aim was to boost the Guinness share price and, therefore, the value of its bid for Distillers.

Guinness shares moved up substantially in the closing stages of its four-and-a-half month battle for Distillers with the April Group. The shares, which stood at 281p on March 13, rose to 353p on April 11, seven days before it secured control of Distillers.

Mr Saunders has consistently maintained that he knew of only one of the payments made to supporters of the Guinness bid — a £2.87 million invoice from Heron Management.

In court proceedings brought by Guinness earlier this year to recover a £5.2 million payment to Mr Thomas Ward, a former Guinness director, he claimed that the other payments to Guinness supporters were authorized without his knowledge by Mr Olivier Roux, the former Guinness finance director. Mr Roux denies this.



Hard businessman, devoted family man: Gerald Ronson and the family he fiercely protects

Gerald Ronson: hard-hitting style of a benevolent dictator

By John Bell City Editor

Mr Gerald Ronson, reputedly Britain's wealthiest self-made businessman, was the first key figure in the Guinness affair to admit publicly that he had become embroiled in a huge — potentially illegal — stock market operation to support the price of the brewing firm's shares during the crucial stages of its successful £2.7 billion bid for Distillers.

Ronson, a tough bear of a man, was never one to mince words. He revealed in a letter to the then newly appointed Guinness chairman, Sir Norman Macfarlane, that if the bid succeeded, in exchange for a £5 million fee Ronson's Heron group agreed to spend up to £25 million in stock market dealings to help Guinness. The arrangements, he said, were expressly confirmed to him by Mr Ernest Saunders.

His letter, the repayment of around £5.8 million to Guinness just six weeks after the start of the Government investigation into the company, and especially his linking of Mr Saunders directly with the arrangements, were pure Ronson.

By repute and temperament, Mr Ronson drives a hard bargain and hates to be crossed. Though he constantly refers to the team of executives who head up Heron, one of Britain's biggest and most successful private companies, the drive and energy that laid the foundation for his expansion since the mid 1950s stemmed almost entirely from Ronson.

A school dropout at the age of 14, he could scarcely wait to join his father's furniture business. He remembers with particular bitterness a teacher who told him, "You'll never be anything because you're good for nothing."

In those early years he developed a pattern of working 12 hours a day, six days a week, which he maintains to this day. When his father was forced to sell the increasingly profitless furniture company, he turned the proceeds — less than £200,000 — into an empire employing capital of almost £1.2 billion.

His management style appears to be firmly based on the belief that it is impossible to make a decent omelette without breaking a few eggs. "I've been called abrasive, I've been called rude," he once said. "Not everyone likes my style, but I'm successful and proud of it."

"This is a benevolent dictatorship. I'm not responsible to any outsiders and I don't want to be. That's why this is a private company and why it is going to remain one."

Ronson's banker in the early days of Heron was to spot the potential in self-service filling stations earlier than almost anyone else in Britain.

It enabled him to create enormous asset backing by spotting likely sites, buying them cheaply, and boosting their value to major oil companies by turning them into a chain of service stations each selling a million gallons of petrol a year. The vastly

increased value of each site created the collateral for further expansion. From this property-related base, he diversified Heron into large-scale building and development, financial services, distribution and entertainment.

What now drives him on is far more difficult to explain. Those who know Mr Ronson well say that his main satisfaction is not Heron, but his family. His and his wife Gail, a former model, have four daughters, shielded ferociously from media attention.

Privately, Mr Ronson told friends that he was furious to find himself involved as a high-profile player in the Guinness affair. He insisted in his letter to Sir Norman that he agreed to take part only because he considered the price support operation for Guinness shares to be a legitimate corrective to the short-selling tactics employed by Argyll Group, the rival bidder for Distillers.

Continued on page 27, col 1

The new charges against Saunders

The charges allege that Mr Saunders:

1. Dishonestly procured in making a document to show that £2,875,000 was due to Heron Management for services rendered.
2. Dishonestly procured a document authorizing the payment of £2,875,000 to Heron Trust.
3. Stole £2,875,000 belonging to Guinness.
4. Dishonestly procured in making a document to show that £5,800,000 was due to Fima Service Corporation for professional advice.
5. Procured the execution of a document authorizing the payment of £4,800,000 to Fima Savings by falsely representing that Fima Service Corporation had provided professional advice.
6. Stole £4,800,000 belonging to Guinness.
7. Conspired to create a false market in Guinness shares.
8. Procured Guinness to give an indemnity for losses that might arise out of buying and holding shares and an agreement to pay a fee if the Guinness bid for Distillers was successful.
9. Procured the execution of a document authorizing the payment of £254,000 to Zentral-sparkasse und Kommerzbank.
10. Stole £254,000 belonging to Guinness.
11. Dishonestly used an invoice describing services rendered by Konsulat and the total amount due to Konsulat.
12. Procured the making of a document authorizing the payment of £3,000,000 by falsely representing that Konsulat had provided Guinness with professional and advisory services, that £3,000,000 fees had been agreed by Guinness, and that Konsulat and that work was not subject to VAT.
13. Stole £3,000,000 belonging to Guinness.
14. Procured Guinness to give an indemnity to ZKB for losses that might arise out of the purchase and subsequent holding of shares.
15. Falsified an invoice for £1,897,500 from Morgan Grenfell.
16. Falsified an invoice for £101,200 from Morgan Grenfell Laurie.
17. Falsified an invoice for £473,800 from Morgan Grenfell Laurie.
18. Procured the making of a document authorizing payments of £1,897,500 and £575,000 by falsely representing that invoices accurately reflected the value of work done.
19. Produced or used an invoice for £1,953,000 from Rudano which he knew might be misleading, false or deceptive.
20. Procured the making of a cheque for £1,953,000 in favour of Rudani Corp by falsely representing that an invoice accurately reflected the value of services.
21. Stole £1,953,000 belonging to Guinness.
22. Stole £1,000,000 belonging to Guinness.
23. Conspired to create a false market in Guinness shares.

Bad time for gilts
market-makers

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The new-style gilt market has been good for investors and the Bank of England, a report published today says, but the market-makers have found the going tough.

The report, from market-makers Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, says that in the year since the Big Bang financial institutions have benefited from a reduction in dealing costs, and the Bank from a fall in funding costs. But, the report says, "It is doubtful whether any market-maker is earning an adequate return on capital."

The report contains no firm estimates of losses by the market-makers. However,

Salomon to axe
150 in London

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Salomon Brothers is dismissing 150 people from its 900-strong London office, Mr Tom Strauss, president of the United States securities house, said yesterday. The rest of the 800 worldwide redundancies announced by the firm on Monday will come in its US operations, while its 300-strong office in Tokyo will suffer no job losses.

Mr Strauss said that Salomon's London operation would not be withdrawing from any areas of business in which it was currently involved, except Eurocommercial paper, certificates of deposit and notes. He added that the

company would be scaling down its Eurobond operations, but in other areas staff reductions would not mean a drop in its market share of those businesses.

"We probably grew a bit too fast in the past two years, but other banks have probably done so too," Mr Strauss admitted. "London has been, and remains, a very important contributor to our overall profitability."

The job losses in London are almost equally divided between "front-room" and "back-room" staff, but Salomon would not say which areas would be particularly affected.

Improve mail service or lose more business, users warn

Post Office deliveries rapped

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Armed with a commercial user survey which showed mail deliveries falling well short of the performance claimed by the Post Office, the Mail Users' Association (MUA) yesterday warned that unless there were improvements its members might use other delivery services. The MUA is alarmed at the prospect of a threatened strike disrupting the service.

The MUA, which represents many commercial and industrial users of the Royal Mail, undertook the survey because of dissatisfaction, especially about the poor reliability of the service on which its members spend £200 million a year.

With professional organizations and companies the main users of second class and rebate, or bulk pre-sorted, mail, the MUA survey found that in July 72.5 per cent of items posted second class reached their destination by the third working day after posting compared with a Post Office claim of 94.5 per cent.

Rebate mail, which should be delivered within seven working days, had an even worse performance, according to the survey. The Post Office claimed a success rate of 90.1 per cent in July, but

the MUA survey returned 58.1 per cent.

Figures for first class letters, although based on a much smaller sample of businesses compared with 4,200 monitored for the main survey, produced results which the MUA described as "uniformly poor."

The target for first class mail is for 90 per cent to be delivered the next day. In July, the Post Office claimed an 87.9 per cent success rate, but the MUA measurement was 43.5 per cent.

Mr Julian Blackwell, the MUA chairman, said commercial users depended on an efficient postal service and gave the Post Office a warning: "If the threatened postal strike takes place around Christmas and standards of delivery are not improved our members will go elsewhere."

One company was already spending £20,000 a year on using courier services which had proliferated since 1971, said Mr Blackwell, the chairman of the Blackwell publishing group.

He said the MUA would not recommend its members to break the Post Office letters monopoly but he assumed this would be suspended if an official strike were called. If wildcat strikes upset

the postal service, companies could hardly be blamed for coping as best they could, he added.

The sharp discrepancies between the MUA findings and Post Office claims were partly explained by the Post Office measuring only delivery from date of postmark to being ready for local delivery, Mr Blackwell said. The MUA monitored from posting to final delivery.

Mr Blackwell said: "Users, trade unions and the Post Office management need to work closely together to tune up the quality of service. We could then have a healthy, vigorous Post Office." The alternative was a "disaster scenario": if there was serious strike action users would deliver their own mail.

The Post Office said it had made clear to its workers that industrial action at Christmas would be extremely damaging.

But the Post Office contested the MUA findings, saying its own independently validated monitoring was much more broadly based, sampling up to 150,000 letters a month. Performance, it said, was significantly better than last year — £18 million had been spent this year on improvements to the service.

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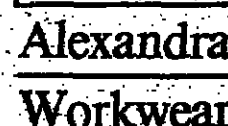
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TEMPUS

BM equipped for growth

Construction equipment has not won much of a reputation in the glamour stakes in recent years, but with so much new property development going on someone has to have been making money. Now we know who: BM Group, once known as Braham Millar, yesterday checked in with a 120 per cent advance in profits for the year to end-June, at £5.09 million.

BAT Industries, the tobacco, retailing, paper and financial services group, rallied 5p to 682p from recent depression prompted by reports that the company was on the verge of announcing a large US acquisition.



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Alexandra aims to supply within a few days of an order's receipt, giving it an edge over the competition. Direct mailing and a close follow-up service are watchwords of the group. The remaining are also a success.

Finian said it was after an inexplicable reluctance by the Baltic board to recommend either the offers or proposed increases to the offers which were conditional on a board recommendation.

Several leading brokers have already taken opposing views on prospects. County NatWest, the broking arm of the Nat West Bank, rates the shares a "buy" pointing to the continuing growth in trading profits. In its daily bulletin, the broker urged that the shares should be bought at current levels of £15.43. No doubt County will be looking for a bounce in the price over the next few days.

Trevor Mawby
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Investment managers rate James Capel top of league

By Cliff Feltham

The champagne corks were popping at James Capel, the stockbroker, yesterday after it was voted the top investment firm in the City for the tenth year running.

But the annual Extel Financial league table of leading investment analysts shows that James Capel won by the smallest margin of votes since 1982.

Second place went to Barclays de Zoete Wedd which shot up from sixth position last year. Third slot was taken by Warburg Securities, replacing Citicorp-Securcor. Swingers which dropped to sixth place.

Wood Mackenzie dropped from fourth to seventh position and Greenwell Montagu was not ranked in the top 10 at all. Kleinwort Greaveson crept into the league at tenth place.

Brokers' Analysts Ratings

	'87	'86
James Capel	1	1
Barclays de Zoete	2	6
Warburg Secs	3	7
Phillips & Drew	4	2
Hoare Govett	5	5
Citicorp-Securcor	6	3
Wood Mackenzie	7	4
County NatWest	8	9
Alexanders Laing	9	10
Kleinwort-Greaveson	10	13

son Lehman Securities, Paribas Quilter Securities and Sheppard.

Mr Mike Geering, the head of equity research at James Capel, said his firm had maintained its position through "luck and continuity."

He said: "Big Bang has made institutions more attentive about the way they allocate their business and the

survey mirrors what is happening in the market place. The vote of confidence we have received from them shows they are more than happy with the service we provide. But that does not mean we can stand still."

Mr Peter Wilmet-Swift, joint chairman of Warburg Securities, said: "The experience in New York showed that top analysts went to top market-makers and I think that is starting to happen here. In 1985 we finished eleventh and now we are rated third. That shows we have the strengths to attract the right people."

Loyalty bonus restricts BP issue

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Government is faced with the embarrassing prospect of holding on to a larger proportion of the remaining shares it holds in British Petroleum because of the runaway success of its campaign to dispose of the shares to the new breed of small shareholders it has created.

Initially half of the Government's 31.5 per cent stake in the company had been earmarked for small investors. However, when the price is announced tomorrow - 345p a share compared with the current market price of 362p - the most common forecast among City oil analysts - interest is expected to reach such a pitch that the allocation for overseas investors will have to be trimmed, with as much as 70 per cent being allocated for the British public.

This means that the Government will have to hold back a far higher proportion of the shares to meet potential loyalty bonus handouts than originally planned.

With an estimated 4 million small investors applying and each eligible for up to 150 bonus shares if they hold on to their purchases for three years, the Treasury will have to hold back up to 600 million shares. Small investors have been promised "meaningful" allocations by the Government's financial adviser, NM Rothschild.

A retention of so many shares will also cut into the number available for overseas investors who are concerned that the tender system in which they are being asked to take part is arbitrary.

BP is also anxious that more of its shares should be held overseas to reflect the company's spread of interests and its plans to expand into the lucrative Pacific Basin area. Any dilution in the amount of shares that go overseas will be resisted by the BP management.

Potential investors will have from next Tuesday until 10am on Wednesday, October 28, to complete application forms. The estimated 5.5 million who have registered an interest with the BP share information office in Bristol will receive priority application forms over the weekend.

On October 29, overseas and institutional investors will have to submit offers for shares to a committee made up of officials from NM Rothschild and the Treasury.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet Governor sets rickety fence round banks

Clearing and the better merchant banks will be soothed by the words of the Governor of the Bank of England, who in a speech last night in Northern Ireland went some way towards clarifying the Bank's attitude to banking takeovers. His speech was both timely - the Banking Act with its "fit and proper" criterion for judging would-be controllers of British banks began operating on October 1 - and topical: there are plenty of rumours in the market air about the fate of Midland, Standard Chartered and Kleinwort, Benson to name but three.

Not surprisingly, and with good reason, the Bank believes that "the public interest requires the continuation of a strong British presence in our key domestic money, credit and capital markets." This belief does not preclude all foreign takeovers: three, for the Northern Bank, Clydesdale and Guinness Mahon, have recently taken place. Protection is only for core institutions, though the Bank realizes that the banks making up the core of the system may change over time.

The Bank is not opposed to the judgement of market forces; it just insists that interference to frustrate them may, on occasions, be justified. The Bank is obviously happy with the provisions of the new Act which allows it to use its "discretion, common sense and experience" in judging when the prospective controller of a bank may be outside the bounds of acceptability. The Governor promises that the Bank will not be capricious or arbitrary but nor will it be fainthearted. Confidence (in a bank) is the heart of the matter.

The Bank strongly disapproves of speculators who build up a stake in order to put a bank "into play," although it is hard to see what the Old Lady can do about it. "Banks are different," and for that reason the Governor "would need some persuading" before letting one fall into the hands of an industrial or commercial company. "A hard and fast rule" is difficult, but probably you do not need one if you insist, as the Governor did last night, that "industrial and commercial companies are not part of the banking system, nor should they enter surreptitiously and adventitiously."

The Governor's remarks appear to rule out most of the favourite takeover candidates for Midland. Deutsche Bank, as a foreign concern, is out. Commercial companies like Saatchi & Saatchi are equally ruled out. The only plausible candidates would appear to be the other clearing banks or possibly Hongkong & Shanghai if it were to move back to London before 1997.

Royal Bank would probably also be considered in the same light since it does most of Scotland's retail banking, but would the smaller Bank of Scotland qualify as central to the system?

Standard Chartered looks even more

vulnerable. It could hardly be called central on any count, but it could probably be safely defended under the "fit and proper" heading if its main shareholders, Sir YK Pao and Robert Holmes & Court tried a bid. If, as seems most likely, these shareholders are really planning to break it up, the Bank would disapprove but be powerless.

Merchant banks look safe from commercial or industrial predators but the Governor is extending no protection under the foreign ownership label.

Birthday blues

Big Bang's first birthday is still a fortnight away. But there will surely be some glum faces at the party, a high proportion of them belonging to gilt-edged market-makers, if Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank's early assessment of a year in the gilt market is representative. It has not been a happy place, particularly since the election, and market-makers have been on the receiving end of some quite sharp Bank of England tactics.

In the good old days the Government Broker did not normally leave the jobbers high and dry and overloaded with stock. In the new era, when 26 market-makers have fees guaranteed by rich parents, the Bank has largely stopped communicating with its traditional nudges and winks.

On August 5, for instance, the Bank cut the price of the short tap. On August 6, it raised base rates. Market-makers who took on the tap were faced with almost immediate losses of 2½ points.

The Bank cannot be blamed for the bad trade figures that followed the second gilt auction at the end of September, having fixed the auction date in advance. Perhaps it gave some signal by offering only £800 million rather than the expected £1 billion of stock. Even so, market-makers who took the stock felt the Bank had sold them another pup.

Firms will soon have to make hard decisions on whether to stay in the gilt-edged market. The report suggests business is already concentrated, the top three market-makers sharing nearly 30 per cent of the market and the top 10 nearly 70 per cent.

Some among the bottom 16 are manifestly in the gilt market in name only. The expected shake-out will be complex because several potential newcomers, including Nomura, Daiwa and Morgan Stanley, are waiting in the wings. And there could be mergers, Wood Mackenzie being the most obvious candidate.

But with estimated losses for the 26 running at £100 million for the year since Big Bang, and with no market-maker earning an adequate return on capital, according to Alexanders, something has to give.

The new charges against Saunders

Continued from page 25

24. Procured Guinness to give an indemnity to J.P. Rothschild Underberg Towbin for losses that might arise from buying and holding Guinness shares.

25. Procured Guinness to pay \$1,897,500, \$101,200 and \$473,800 after the buying of Guinness shares.

26. Procured the payment of £1,953,000 to Rudani after the buying of Guinness shares.

27. Procured the making of a document from Guinness authorizing the payment of £5,200,000 by falsely representing that Marling & Acquisition Consultants had rendered advice valued at £5,200,000, that the payment referred only to matters in an invoice, that the advice was not subject to VAT, and that the payment was for honest and lawful dealings.

28. Stole £5,200,000 belonging to Guinness.

29. Produced an invoice for £1,940,000 which to his knowledge was or might be misleading, false or deceptive.

30. Produced an invoice from Erlanger and Company for £1,495,000, which he knew was or might be misleading, false or deceptive.

31. Produced or used an invoice from Consultations et Investissements for £3,350,000, which he knew was or might be misleading, false or deceptive.

32. Procured the making of a cheque for £1,495,000 by falsely representing that Erlanger & Company had carried out work valued at £1,495,000, that payment under an invoice referred only to matters set out in the invoice, that the work was not subject to VAT and that the payment was for honest and lawful dealings.

33. Procured the making of a cheque for £1,940,000 by falsely representing that Cifco had rendered a service valued at £1,940,000, the payment referred only to matters in the invoice, the service was not subject to VAT and the payment was for honest and lawful dealings.

34. Procured the making of a cheque for £3,350,000 by falsely representing that Consultations et Investissements had rendered advice valued at £3,350,000, payment referred only to matters in the invoice, the advice was not subject to VAT and the payment was for honest and lawful dealings.

35. Stole £3,350,000 belonging to Guinness.

36. Stole £1,495,000 belonging to Guinness.

37. Stole £1,940,000 belonging to Guinness.



Dressing for success: John Prior, managing director of Alexandra Workwear

Alexandra profits up 29%

Alexandra Workwear, the Bristol-based supplier and manufacturer of specialist clothing for work, continued its strong profits growth by reporting a 29 per cent increase in pretax profits to £2.5 million for the half-year to August 15. Sales rose by 25 per cent in the period, to £21.7 million. An interim dividend of 1.1p (0.92p) was announced.

Mr Granville Davis, the chairman, said: "Second-half sales orders and production

have developed satisfactorily, and I expect this to continue."

Following the acquisition of a lease close to the group's existing premises, warehousing capacity at Bristol is to be increased by 70 per cent.

Since the end of January, Alexandra has taken on 100 extra workers for its Scottish production facilities. This has enabled production to be stepped up, from 85,000 full size garments a week to 100,000, meeting the growing demand for the group's prod-

ucts, which also include caps, aprons and tabards.

Alexandra operates a retail chain of 18 shops, one of which is in Rotterdam. Two are due to open in Edinburgh and Liverpool, and several more sites are under review.

Mr John Prior, managing director, said: "The market for workwear is changing and evolving all the time. Our database enables us to spot trends quickly and act upon them." *Times*, page 26

Ratners bond issue

Ratners Group, the jewellery chain, is paying for its takeover of the Westhall business in the United States through a £44 million issue of convertible bonds.

The bonds, with a maturity of 15 years, carry a coupon of between 4 per cent and 4.25 per cent, and a conversion price of 500p a share. Investors will have the right to redeem the bonds on October 30, 1992, at a price to yield approximately 9.25 per cent.

The bonds are being placed through an international group of banks lead-managed by Morgan Grenfell.

At the time of the £30 million takeover of Westhall, Ratners said it intended to pay for the acquisition from its cash resources and banking facilities.

Peel in talks with Mersey Docks

By Carol Ferguson

Peel Holdings, the North-west property company, has confirmed that it has been in discussions with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company to "consider potential areas of common interest."

Yesterday's announcement followed a statement from Mersey the previous day to the effect that it was in preliminary discussions which may or may not lead to a bid in the future.

However, Mr Peter Scott, deputy managing director of Peel, said yesterday that speculation that the talks would lead to a bid were premature.

"It all depends on the stance the Government takes to-

wards £107 million of grants made to Mersey under the Ports Financial Assistance Act, 1981," he said.

"This amount is not included in the balance sheet, but is in the notes to the accounts as a contingent liability."

"Until the question of repayment of the grant is resolved, we can't put a fair value on the assets."

Peel has a 10.06 per cent interest in Mersey which it acquired during August and September at an average price of 256p a share.

Yesterday, Mersey's shares fell 45p to 415p. Meanwhile, Peel's shares rose 15p to 680p.

Taubman's towering ambition

Once a real estate man, always a real estate man. Alfred Taubman's chairmanship of soon-to-be-refloated Sotheby's, and his association with fellow directors who include numerous peers of the realm, have not stifled his ability to sniff out lucrative property deals. Small print in the placing document produced for Sotheby's simultaneous share listing in London and New York reveals that the 62-year-old American is keeping for himself the rights to the prized "air space" above Sotheby's present American headquarters in York Avenue, New York City. In a city where every self-respecting tycoon tries to build a tower of record height, and where property prices and rentals are soaring to similar altitudes, Taubman has an agreement, valid for 10 years, whereby a subsidiary of his master Taubman Investments vehicle can build on the existing four-storey building. Sotheby's will be indemnified against costs and liabilities and it will be permitted to buy or lease, for a nominal \$1, a condominium on the first floor of the "New Tower." It will also receive 10 per cent of the first \$15 million profits and 25 per cent of anything over that. Nice one, Alf.

BAA dogfight

Things are not going entirely smoothly within the privatized air industries, I hear. A colleague returning to Heathrow at the weekend was

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Embarrassed by riches

Few fund managers get embarrassed by their success but, despite a clear conscience, Dick Sowerby, an investment manager at Whitbread Investment Company, is blushing brightly. He bought 150,000 shares in Boddingtons, the Manchester brewers, on Monday, only a couple of hours before Midsommer Leisure unexpectedly announced its £226 million takeover offer for the company. The shares, bought at about 160p, are now

changing hands at 220p - a profit of about £90,000 within 48 hours. What's the secret, Dick? "We had owned 23 per cent of Boddingtons for years but our stake had been diluted so we decided that, if and when the price was right, we would pick up stock in the market," he explains. "Our brokers offered us 150,000 so we bought. I must admit the timing was a bit unfortunate - the bid came totally out of the blue."

held in a packed 757 on the tarmac after landing, because all British Airways Shuttle stands were full - except one. During the 20-minute wait for other aircraft to leave, the pilot explained over the intercom that the empty stand had

been out of action for two weeks because of a broken manhole cover. "And BAA, who run Heathrow, have not yet repaired it." When passengers eventually got into the terminal building, the pilot's message had clearly got through, and the BAA complaint forms were quickly snapped up. Is BAA set to become another privatization black sheep?

● The pound note is alive and well and likely to be living in Scotland for the foreseeable future. The Royal Bank of Scotland has announced new designs for its banknotes, featuring on the front Lord Islay (not a malt whisky but the bank's first governor in 1727) and on the reverse, as at present, Scotland's castles - Balmoral (£100), Brodick (£20), Glamis (£10), Culzean (£5), and, on the £1, Edinburgh Castle.



"Froggy Crockers gets two Britannias pocket money"

Video nasty

Even an entry in *Debrett's Peerage*, the British peerage directory, is insufficient to guarantee you a free copy of this year's essential yuppie ski guide - *Debrett's Ski Resorts of Europe*. Paid for by advertisements for Porsche, Cazenove and caviar, it is produced by *Debrett's* and USM-quoted Sterling Publications, and is being mailed to selected aristocrats, with us plebs permitted to buy it, for £8.95, from WH Smith. Its guide to the "in" resorts spans France, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Scotland, with name-dropping articles by socialites and celebrities, including Elaine Paige, Carol Thatcher, Alai Forte - wife of Rocco - and Edward Leigh-Pemberton - son of Robin. But even non-skiers will be amused to read the account of the International Stock Exchange Championships by Nick Lyster of Cazenove. Not only does he reveal that ex-Rowe and Pittman senior partner Sir Peter Vannack's nickname is "Groupie", but he also tells the tale of NBC filming a rendition of *Just One Corsetto* by a band of British brokers for American breakfast television. "The eight-strong choir turned round and mooned at the camera," Lyster recounts. "On every buttock was painted a large letter which collectively read 'Have a nice day'." Unfortunately NBC considered this to be an overly abrupt way of waking up the American populace - and now it lives on only as a cult video."

Carol Leonard

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Modest rally

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 26)

45	Account Computers	138	140			18.4
106	Admin	212	216	+7	27.8	19.3

124	Grand Canyon	278	280	+2	72	5.6	245
	Bartholomew Hall	246	250	+4	9.3	3.8	134

108	Star Camp	199	203	2.1	18	201
130	Stanley	225	230	6.9	30	206

92	30	Forward	84	88	+6
485	300	Capital & Res	480	-	-	-	-
126	45	Debt Per	109	111	+3	1.4	1.3

Forecast earnings: Ex other: Ex rights: Ex scrip:
share split: Tax-free: No significant data.

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Int
payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend
yield exclude a special payment i Pre-merger figure
Forecast earnings ● Ex other f Ex rights s Ex scrip
share split t Tax-free ... No significant data.

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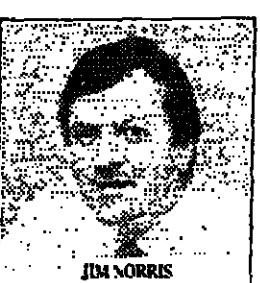
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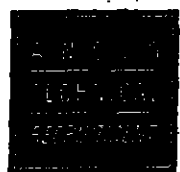
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MEDIA & MARKETING

Let's be honest about porridge

OPINION

Pearson Phillips

Among all the nuggets of action promised in Home Secretary Douglas Hurd's address at the Tory Party law and order bun-fight, there were two items about prison. There are going to be more prison places and the appeal court will be able to lengthen sentences which it decides are too lenient.

The hangers and floggers will not be impressed. They will say that prison is not a serious deterrent anyway. It is difficult to prove them wrong. Can anything be done about that? There could be, if the government were ready to use the media in a new way.

We are all familiar with the kind of television advertising used to fight crime. It has been pointed at the ordinary citizen who has been in danger of slipping up.

Scarred road accident victims in the seat belt campaign. Young lives cut short in the drinking and driving campaign. When dealing with more hard-core crime, like housebreaking or car theft, the message has been addressed to house-holders and car owners, advising them how to look after their property.

The Central Office of Information is now looking for an advertising agency to run a new crime prevention campaign. The front-runners are said to be Collett Dickinson Pearce, veteran of past government campaigns, and the flavour of the moment, Gold Greenlees Trotter.

Either of these agencies would boast that it could mobilize enough technical brilliance to move the public mind. Why not use these techniques to reinforce the deterrence of a prison sentence? Why not employ the mind-moulding power of advertising to make potential criminals aware of just what going to prison involves?

This would at the same time keep people out of prison, which should be the final aim of any penal policy.

At present the main message which comes from the television screens about prison is that provided by the comedy series *Porridge*.

It appears as a pleasantly warm, cosy, brightly-lit club, with charming members. But the company enjoyed in prison is not quite like that.

Any documentary coverage of prison life tends to concentrate on the new, the enlightened, the experimental. There seems to be a tacit understanding that the small, over-crowded cells, all the things which produce prison riots, are never mentioned.

There are also the secondary effects of a custodial sentence, the effect on careers, the effect on families.

There will, of course, be pitfalls and objections. One difficulty will be raised by the prison officers. How will they come out of it all? Are they to be shown as one of the inhuman aspects of prison life? They will hardly agree to that. But they would surely welcome being brought into the campaign to show just what life in prison can be like.

There will also be the objection that such a campaign will not touch the hardened criminal, who treats a sentence as part of the job. Nor will it do anything to keep out the large portion of prison occupants who arrive there through incompetence and inadequacy. For these, prison can never be a deterrent. But there are others for whom it could.

Pearson Phillips is a freelance writer and regular contributor to The Times.

As two magazines are launched, David Leitch considers a rival to Lord Gnome

It's no blinking Eye

Nothing promised better for *The Digger*, the new fortnightly rival to *Private Eye*, than the advance publicity stressing the Australian-English antecedents of its founder, John Mulcahy.

It sounded just the right cultural cocktail for investigative journalism: a combination of larrikin aggression and Irish irreverence. At least it wouldn't be like going to the same awful prep school for 25 years.

So much for the fantasy, or hype. The reality of issue one, a smooth, though curiously ugly pastiche of *Private Eye*, suggests that Mr Mulcahy is flogging for a yuppie marketing vehicle.

The display ads in this ersatz *Eye* tell a more interesting tale than the editorial copy wrapped round them. There are full pages from Ryanair and the Allied Irish Bank, for instance. There are also four pages in colour for the Renault turbos most resembling a Porsche, addressing "the discerning few who would consider spending more than £25,000 on a car". Add a full page inviting offers for a Polo Centre near Ascot, and it's easy to imagine this is one more of those free mags which destroy letter-boxes at what they assure you are London's "most prestigious 100,000 addresses".

The copy looks horribly like a glossy *Eye*. Except in that left hand Gnome niche, where there is a



THE DIGGER: A NEW RIVAL TO PRIVATE EYE

satirical editorial advocating privatized jails run like battery chicken farms. It makes you feel nostalgic for jokes about organs.

The lead story identifies a "mysterious" Irishman, "known to Fleet Street only as The Dook" which is presumably supposed to shed light on the Simon Hayward drug case in Stockholm.

There is a likelier-looking item about Aer Lingus pilots being co-opted as diplomatic couriers on the London route because Irish diplomats have deduced that the Swiss-made cipher machines they acquired for a million pounds

Mulcahy may be able to make us again appreciate the strange beauty of Private Eye

especially for the talks with Mrs Thatcher had been bust wide open by M15.

There are a couple of Scarfe-inspired cartoons — and there's no worse person to attempt to plagiarize — plus shocked insider revelations about the ITV companies' inducements being offered to encourage foreign buyers to purchase their programmes.

They don't amount to much, although the editorial slant reveals a schizophrenic double standard between the reporters and the kind of readers implied by the ads.

It makes no sense that potential Renault Alpine or Polo Centre purchasers would find excess in a Thames TV scheme, for example, to present the "250-plus" foreign buyers with "a free leather-bound Filofax" (they could hardly charge for the things, presumably).

The *Digger* believes in the recent notion that people who are "some-

thing in the City" — usually having something to do with multiple share applications, or offshore tax dodges — are of compelling interest. Their stories reinforce a more durable idea that City life is so dull it is impolite to talk about it.

The copy is all written in sub *Eye*-speak, jockey but not funny. There is a poor taste item called *A Life In The Day* of Terry Waite, and something called *The Traditional Fijian Power Structure*. The humour involves funny names like Sir George Peek-a-Boo and Timotei Banamarama next to head shots of The Queen, Prince Philip, Douglas Hurd and the hapless — and luckless — former Tory MP for Yax Mon.

When Claud Cockburn founded his subversive and sometimes satirical magazine *The Week* in the middle 1930s his motivation was mainly political. The launch of the *Eye* in 1961 expressed as much as anything a desire to continue the kind of undergraduate games played at Footlights concerts.

Times have changed so much that *The Digger's* launch seems to be motivated by a perceived empty space. I doubt it will be easy, but Mulcahy may be able to make us again appreciate the strange beauty of *Private Eye*.

David Leitch was formerly on The Sunday Times Insight team. He is the author of books on Kim Philby and Guy Burgess.



Terry Ramsden: a bitter letter

Sporting strife

Why two of Britain's racing papers have had the whips out

In one corner, the *Sporting Life*, the country's oldest racing newspaper, proprietor one Robert Maxwell. In the other, the *Racing Post*, born in 1886 of the Muckton family, rulers of Dubai and supporters of the English turf.

The aggressive, colourful *Post* came into being when the *Life* was showing fatigue, its circulation down to 69,000 and teetering financially.

Today a rejuvenated *Life* sells 91,000 copies; the *Post's* circulation is 42,000. The sniping between the two has become particularly virulent during the past two weeks.

The catalyst is millionaire Terry Ramsden, Britain's biggest non-Arab racehorse owner and sponsor of racing to the tune of £180,000 a year. On October 1, the *Post's* diary suggested that Ramsden was late in paying sponsorship money. Ramsden's reaction was a bitter letter to the *Life*, supported by a front-page interview with one of his spokesmen "to notify the racing world that I am withdrawing from all my sponsorships forthwith".

The following day, on its front page, the *Post* replied with an editorial that referred to a "unsubstantiated and cheap attack on us". Back to the *Life*, a day later: "It is poor newspaper practice to be ponderous... yesterday's display will cut no ice with the great British racing public."

Both papers have temporarily exhausted their explosives. But the greater battle is not over. The *Post's* last leader ended: "Ultimately, the market place will make up its own mind; we are in no great hurry."

Marcel Berlins

©Times Newspapers Ltd 1987

... and Michael Duncan reports on a new contender for readership in the shires

Marcus Binney, editor and moving force behind *Landscape*, the glossy new monthly magazine which hopes to topple *Country Life* from its pedestal as top people's journal of rural heritage and lifestyle, has friends in high places. "If Marcus is behind it, I'm sure he'll get it right," says the Duke of Argyll, one of 2,500 founder subscribers Binney and his small team have sought to give *Landscape* "a solid base". And Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of English Heritage, calls it "a splendid new star in the firmament. It has a nice mix and is well laid out".

But are Binney's landed gentry and conservation connections — he is an ex-editor of *Country Life* himself and president of Save

Britain's Heritage — enough to get such a publication off the ground?

Country Life sells 48,000 copies each week, including 4,000 subscriptions. *Landscape* printed 50,000 copies, and has sold around 24,000 so far, including its subscriptions, which Binney hopes to raise to 5,000 by Christmas. The consensus among advertising types is that if it is to succeed, *Landscape* must make inroads into the property advertising which contributes largely to *Country Life's* £7 million-plus of advertising revenue and its estimated £2 million profits each year.

Binney is adamant his magazine will not hinge on property quite to the extent of his rival. To the casual reader *Landscape's* advertising profile seems to be identified by its two-page spreads for Porsche and Benson and Hedges, and its article

Binney is adamant his magazine will not hinge on property to quite the same extent

on Bannenburg yachts. But Chris Allen of BRAHM, the Leeds advertising agency which handles Porsche's media buying, says his presence in *Landscape* was a one-off: "We're not certain whether it is our type of audience."

As for the estate agents, *Landscape* was well received by Linda Anstey, media director for Hampton and Sons. She took three pages

in the first issue and "had an extremely good response" — almost the exact words of Isabelle Plennay of Bonham's, the auctioneers, another important market.

Anthony Cane, partner in estate agent Strutt & Parker, still needs to be convinced. He feels *Landscape's* apparent emphasis on subscriptions may mean it misses out on the kind of reader who buys *Country Life* simply when in the market for a property. "To be honest, *Country Life* is the bible," he says.

Its lack of authoritative bite is the core of the main criticism of *Landscape*. Warren Davies of the National Trust says it has "less sparkle than we had been led to believe" while Nick Lockett, deputy media director at Seatchi and Seatchi, thinks it needs to be more topical.

SALES EXECUTIVES

OTE c£18,000 + car Various UK locations

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You will be responsible for business booked by local and national advertising agencies. You will be encouraged to produce attractive radio marketing ideas for major clients based in and around our transmission area. You will receive an ongoing training programme. You will work to targets and you will be offered a good basic salary and a car.

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to Bob Hoard, Advertisement Manager, Southern Sound Radio,
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PUBLICITY/PRESS OFFICER

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Either write for an application form - or send 250 words on why you're the person we're looking for - to:

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4-6 weeks duration full-time.

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Music of the hills

ACCOUNT

MAKE YOUR

RESIDENTIAL LETTING NEGOTIATOR

MEDIA & MARKETING

Music of the tills

The advertisers are discovering that old tunes are still the best

Living Berlin won't, Peggy Lee will and from next year, George Gershwin is up for grabs. Len Thorpe knows this sort of thing because, as the copyright manager for Chappell Music, he is approached at least six times a day by advertising agencies wanting to use standard songs in commercials.

"Some songs we are not allowed to use," he says. "Irving Berlin, who is now 99 years old, doesn't permit the use of his. The Gershwin estate resisted for a long time but next year he goes out of copyright anyway."

Chappell, in the spotlight because of a takeover bid from Warner Communications, is the world's largest music publisher. It has on its books, among others, Cole Porter, Noel Coward, Lorenz Hart, Ivor Novello and George Gershwin.

Managing director Brian Bush estimates that the company owns approximately 650,000 songs, a small percentage of which will be consistent money-makers. These are now on computer, where song titles can be checked for words appropriate to advertisers and their forthcoming campaigns.

Recent successes include "George Girl" in a Barbie Doll campaign, Peggy Lee's "It's a Good Day" for Legal and General Insurance, and "Sentimental Journey" for British Rail. Fees can be £50,000 for a lengthy national television campaign.

Says Thorpe: "A lot of advertising is directed at those who are between 20 and 50. For them, you have got to have songs that everyone has known since childhood."

Steve Turner

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987

Battle for the babies

The war of words and occasional fistfights between South African newspapers and Fleet Street's *The Mail* on Sunday has taken a more serious, legalistic turn. At issue is not just the coverage of the birth of triplets to their own grandmother in a Johannesburg clinic two weeks ago, but also more nebulous and emotional concepts like national pride and journalistic ethics.

The *MoS* had the grandmother and her family on exclusive contract. The South African Press resented this foreign intrusion and tried to get a share of a story it considered its own. This old-fashioned saga of newspaper competition, involving lawyers, minders and spotters, began nine months ago, shortly after 48-year-old Pat Anthony discovered she was pregnant. Stewart Steven, the *MoS* editor, bought her exclusive story. But the £40,000 he offered was far from the million rand (£300,000) reported in South Africa.

South African papers first learnt of British interest a month before the birth, when they received telexes announcing that the *MoS* had an exclusive contract with the Anthony family approach to the family would lead to a suit for damages.

Ray Joseph, news editor of the Johannesburg *Sunday Times*, part of the Times Media group, says: "This was like a red rag to a bull. We put in extra effort." His reporter, Charmain Naidoo, found that the Park Lane Clinic, where Anthony was due to give birth, "leaked like a sieve".

At 4.30 on the morning of October 1, Toni Youngusband, the medical reporter on *The Star*, owned by the rival Argus group, received a call from her source there, saying Anthony was entering the operating theatre. The babies were born soon after 6am and Youngusband claims she was the first reporter on the scene 10 minutes later. As she tells it, she walked straight into the hospital, into the lift and up to the second-floor maternity ward. As the doors opened, a camera team was coming out of the ward. She was allegedly shoved back into the lift by an *MoS* reporter, who then pushed the button to the ground floor. She got out of the lift and sprinted up the stairs. Again she was denied access.

Allison MacDonald, a general reporter on the tabloid *The Citizen*, also claims that she and her photographer were man-handled by members of the eight-person *MoS* reporting team.

As far as the South African media were concerned, they had their story. The following day *Beeld*, the Afrikaans daily, ran a front-page story



Front page war: the "official" picture from *The Mail on Sunday* (above) and the *Sunday Mirror*'s version "taken by a South African nurse" (top right)

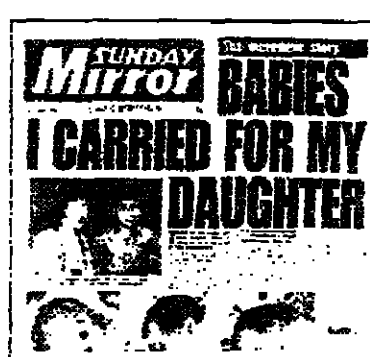
Andrew Lycett reports on the latest round in the international press war that began with the birth of the South African triplets

featuring not the births, but the heavy-handed tactics of the *MoS*. A battle had been declared.

The *MoS* mounted a 24-hour guard and there were reports of South African journalists shinning up fire escapes and donning elaborate disguises. The *Sunday Times* was particularly determined not to be beaten to a local story by a foreign competitor. Three days after the birth, it offered its readers what it claimed were exclusive photographs of the triplets. The *MoS* countered with a statement from the grandmother saying that these were not her three children. (In fact two of them were.)

The *Sunday Times* was now angry enough to begin an action for defamation. Last Friday it issued a writ demanding that Mrs Anthony retract by October 19, or face a suit for damages. It says it was forced to take the action against Mrs Anthony, but its real aim is to get the *MoS* into court. "Once we get there Mrs Anthony steps aside," says Joseph.

In an unprecedented move, the *Sunday Times* also offered its photos free of charge to the local media, thus hoping to spike the guns of the *MoS*, which had sold its story and pictures to two South African papers. The *Sunday Times* also sold its



"exclusive" to the *Sunday Mirror* in Britain and to other papers round the world. Its pictures are believed to have been taken by a member of the nursing staff at the Park Lane Clinic.

Stewart Steven, the editor of the *MoS*, is unimpressed. "I don't regard it as a significant spoiling operation. Anyway, the pictures everyone was looking for were of the grandmother and mother with the children." These were the ones the *MoS* itself published and then syndicated abroad. It has recouped £500,000 in sales so far - 12½ per cent will, it is understood, go into a trust for the triplets.

Both British and South African papers say they put on circulation as a result of their "exclusives". The *MoS* sold 1,962,000 copies, 130,000 more than the previous week. The *Sunday Times* claims 548,000 copies, the highest figure in its 81-year history, and 30,000 more than its January-June ABC figure.

Defending his paper against charges of harassment, Steven says: "I think Mrs Anthony should be entitled to her privacy. I don't think anyone should be ashamed of supporting her in this." More to the point, he adds, "We had to protect the story principally because of our syndication clients. The South Africans made a big issue of it because, with their press restrictions, they can't really cover real stories." But did his reporters overstep the mark? "Somebody did stumble down a step and made a big issue of it."

Joseph counters angrily. "It was a story on our doorstep and we had a duty to our readers to cover it. The *MoS* went over the top. It made an absolute fool of itself, acting as if it owned the place. It sent in people who had no local knowledge and who treated the local press with the kind of disdain they would normally reserve for a local freesheet."

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BYLINES

Script development

The Glasgow Media Group is not an organization to give up lightly in its efforts to demonstrate that television news is biased. In the latest edition of *Media, Culture & Society*, the group's Greg Philo accuses Independent Television News, not for the first time, of sharp practice in supplying Keele University's Martin Harrison with scripts of news bulletins for his book *TV News, Whose Bias?*

The book defends ITN against the Glasgow group's accusations, but the scripts quoted by Harrison often differ from the bulletins as broadcast, which Philo says undermines Harrison's conclusions. ITN assistant editor Glyn Matthews says Harrison was given scripts, not transcripts, so there are bound to be differences, but they are minor and Harrison's conclusions are justified. Philo disagrees: Harrison has produced "a study of the content of television news without having either the pictures that were shown or the actual words that were spoken", his article concludes.

Too fat to handle

The glossy women's monthlies *Elle*, *Vogue* and *Harper & Queen* are celebrating bumper issues this month.

But, though it makes the advertisement department happy, a big magazine has its drawbacks. When one *Harper's* subscriber rang to ask why her copy of the October issue still hadn't arrived 10 days into the month, she was told the packaging machine had broken down, unable to cope with the 412-page magazine.

Express denial

What is left of Fleet Street has been alive these past few days with rumours that Nick Lloyd's days are numbered as editor of the *Daily Express*, and that *Mirror* columnist Anne Robinson or Brian Hitchens, number two at the *Sunday Express*, are in line to succeed him. Are they true? "In one word, absolute rubbish," says Express Newspapers managing director Andrew Cameron. Express circulation is up, thanks to the paper's recent policy of giving away houses and shares, and there are no plans, says Cameron, to make changes to the paper's editorial management.

Screen Aid

Commonwealth leaders in Vancouver this week will be discussing a plan whereby television programmes produced by any Commonwealth country should be available free to any other. Canada is prepared to subsidize the scheme, which in practice would probably be limited to educational and documentary programmes; so is India; but the United Kingdom is reported to be unenthusiastic.

Briefly...

The *Daily Telegraph* has acknowledged the impracticality of its new Docklands base and is opening a satellite office in the West End for hard-pressed backs to use when they can't get back in time for the first edition... Pirate radio stations in London, used to raids on their transmitters by police and Department of Trade inspectors, report a new hazard: someone has been stealing unattended transmitters and selling them back to the pirates at up to £600 a time... Saatchi & Saatchi agency Dorlands, which the brothers were recently said to be thinking of merging with another arm of their empire, Ted Bates, is making 16 staff redundant... Five years on and two of Channel 4's original independent producers are still flourishing. David Hall and Kees Ryninks have joined forces to work on a quintessential Channel 4 project, a documentary portrait of winners and losers in Thatcher's Britain... The Periodical Publishers' Association is looking at the feasibility of road distribution for magazines as an alternative to the Post Office... Consumer affairs specialist Jan Walsh is the latest journalist to quit *The Star*... A European daily newspaper is the latest idea to spring from the fertile brain of larger-than-life media mogul Robert Maxwell. It nearly proved the end of him as well when his chair collapsed under him at the Paris press conference to announce the venture...

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A tasty position assisting the vice president of marketing and promotions with this well known American Service. Your role will involve delegation of responsibility, high level contact, and the use of your S/H skills. If you have a bright personality, and like working with friendly people.

Call Jackie Mills on 01-623 1226

JOURNALISM
£10,000 neg

At last, an opportunity for the creative! This professional Co. needs a person who can type well, organise effectively and write originally. For a true start in putting pen to paper, enter the world of Financial Journalism and the spirit of Covent Garden.

Call Nicki Whitehead on 01-831 0666

RUN THE SHOW
£13,000

Step into the world of property. Based in St John's Wood you will be in total command of this small but extremely successful company. Be PA to 2 charming prospects. Excellent prospects if you have rusty S/H & typing skills.

Call Jo Nichols on 01-629 4031

COSMETIC
FLAIR
£12,000

Leave world wide when you join this famous company as they market their full range of products. Assist with translations into French, use your S/H skills to help a dynamic boss who wants you to get involved and use your own initiative.

Call Sharon Kay on 01-221 5072

USA BUZZ
£10,000

A good time manager is needed to assist the senior Mkt consultant in this busy, up market American organisation. Become part of this busy team dealing with research, regarding salaries, using your common sense, typing and WP skills. Great package includes LV's, TL, & Xmas bonus.

Call Judy Lewis on 01-834 0388

INTERNATIONAL
MARKETING
£11,000

Use your own initiative and ability to run the office whilst your boss is away in the Middle East involved in business transactions. Learn about marketing projects at confidential levels involving overseas governments concerning projects, staff, salaries and much more. S/H skills needed.

Call Sharon Kay on 01-221 5072

SPORTS
SPONSORSHIP
£9,500

Join this unique team of very special women and become involved in a highly successful, motivated company. As financial consultants, these dynamic ladies advise celebrities and stars and have many projects on the go! Initially using your secretarial skills your career path is endless.

Call Gushan Sacranil on 01-734 0911

Be seen with the right company

"Experience rich rewards in the financial sector?"

EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY

£13,000 p.a. + subsidised mortgage

Prudential Venture Managers are leading players in the venture capital market, providing risk capital to a diverse range of companies, from start up businesses to management buy-outs. A subsidiary of Prudential Corporation, one of the most progressive and successful financial services groups in the UK, we are about to move to smart new offices in the City and are looking for a highly capable Senior Secretary to join us.

Over and above providing a first class secretarial service for the two Directors of Prudential Venture Managers, you will manage a team of three and supervise all secretarial and clerical activities within the office. You will also be responsible for ensuring the efficient organisation and running of general office facilities and services - from catering and cleaning, to security and supplies. This is an extremely responsible position and will suit someone with a mature outlook who is used to working only to the highest professional standards.

In addition to a first class salary, we also offer an outstanding working environment and an impressive range of benefits that include subsidised mortgage and season ticket loan after a qualifying period, plus an excellent pension and life assurance scheme.

In the first instance, please write with full cv to: Caroline Charnell, PSPM, Prudential Corporation plc, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

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Venture ManagersPERSONAL ASSISTANT
TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Salary up to £14,825 per annum (£15,720 from 1 March 1988)

An outstanding and challenging opportunity to contribute to Aston's development as a leading technological university.

We are seeking to appoint someone with exceptional administrative ability and modern secretarial skills to support the Vice-Chancellor in his role as the chief executive and academic officer of the University. This stimulating and rewarding post provides the vital link between the Vice-Chancellor, the internal university community and the outside world. The person appointed will be responsible for the overall administration of the Vice-Chancellor's office, including the supervision of secretarial staff. If you possess a good degree together with the necessary interpersonal skills and experience of working at a similar level we would like to hear from you.

Previous applicants for the post need not submit a further application.

Application form and further details available from Personnel Officer (Non-Academic), Aston University, Aston Triangle, Birmingham B4 7ET.



Telephone 021-359 5350 (24 hour answering) quoting Ref. 87607. Closing date for applications is 30th October, 1987.

ASTON UNIVERSITY

In the City

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG!

PA responsibility and £15,000 at 23

It's frustrating! You've made all the right moves - you have good companies on your CV. You know you can handle those plum PA jobs in the paper, but you are always too young! The best jobs always seem to be labelled "late 20's". Not so this PA role. The company is a young expanding merchant bank so is keen to take on young talent - people who can be developed as the company grows. The Assistant Director of Private Clients

needs a PA who can step into his shoes at the drop of a hat. During his frequent trips abroad you will deal directly with clients (many of them VIPs), keep him informed of developments and answer correspondence and queries. You should have poise, charm, a quick mind and good secretarial skills. Languages useful. Basic salary £12,000 plus benefits, inc. generous bonuses and mort. sub - package in excess of £15,000. Age 22-25.

FINESSE
APPOINTMENTS
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SECRETARY TO M.D.

Are you working for a top executive but tired of commuting? Are you looking for an exciting job south of London which offers the dynamism of a major town based company?

We are a unique management consultancy specialising in providing high-technology information systems for Board Directors. Our clients include multinational corporations and major financial institutions so you must be used to dealing with top level executives in such organisations.

Our young and highly energetic Managing Director needs an excellent Secretary who can organise his very demanding and often impromptu workload and who will help him deal with the needs of a rapidly growing company. It will be unlikely that you will have the necessary experience and skills to make the most of this position unless you are over 25 yrs, educated to A level and have 3 years experience as a senior secretary. In return we offer excellent remuneration, a young and friendly environment in prestigious modern offices in Kingston-upon-Thames.

If you are interested please send your c.v. to: Nicola Westwood, Personnel Executive, Metapraxis Ltd, Hanover House, Coombe Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AH, or ring her on 01-541 1898.



METAPRAXIS

FILM
PRODUCTION
SECRETARY
£10,000

Production Executive of a leading film production company needs an intelligent and versatile secretary (with shorthand & typing) and good all round experience. Good typing also required. The atmosphere is fast-moving and creative; the prospects for advancement are high. Age 19-25.

01 499 6566

MUSIC
RECEPTIONIST
£9,000

A lively, experienced young receptionist is needed by a successful music production company to organise and run their reception and with fact, charm and efficiency. Good typing also required. The atmosphere is fast-moving and creative; the prospects for advancement are high. Age 19-25.

01 499 6566

DESIGN
ADMIN ASSISTANT
£13,000

A highly competent administrative assistant is needed by a commercial interior design company based in the City. Top level previous experience needed, preferably gained in a commercial environment. Good typing (no S/H) the ability to work well with a highly professional team, mostly on own initiative. Good career opportunity. Age 25+.

01 499 6566

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SECRETARY/PA TO
COLLEGE
PRINCIPAL

Cordwainers Technical College specialises in teaching Footwear & Leathergoods Design Management and Saddlery. Secretary/PA required to provide secretarial support to the College Principal and Senior Administrative Officer. Duties include some taking of committee minutes.

The person appointed will have used, or be willing to learn, a computer/word processor. Training will be given.

Excellent conditions of service in a small, friendly but busy office. Salary currently under review and the post is pensionable.

Please apply in own writing, with a typed CV, to Mr H.P. Whiteley, Senior Admin. Officer, Cordwainers College, 182 Mare Street, Hackney, E8 3RE.

Prospects in PR

LAUNCHES IN THE DOCKLANDS PRESS CONFERENCES IN THE WEST END

This small but very successful PR Co in trendy Chelsea need an intelligent and lively young PA, 20+, to join their hectic team. Working directly for a young and creative account director, you will be involved at a direct client level dealing with all PR aspects for major and prestigious accounts. With your 50wpm typing and WP skills this is an excellent move into a demanding and stimulating field. £25,500+

Call Leanne for an initial interview 01-379 4184 or 01-379 0344 rec cons

Christopher Keats

SECRETARY/PA

Required for MD of local printing company. Previous experience at director level required for this busy and challenging position. Dealing with business and personal matters for the MD. Driving licence required. Hours 8.30-5.30. Salary according to age and experience. Age 25+.

Reply in writing with CV to Michelle Causse, Chester Lido Ltd, 200 High Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JA, Tel: (02828) 4611

BERKHAMSTED
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Headmistress of Berkhamsted School for Girls requires a full time Personal Assistant/Secretary. This is a demanding and responsible post which should appeal to a mature person with plenty of initiative.

Further details may be obtained from The Bearer, Berkhamsted School for Girls, Kings Road, Berkhamsted.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS
FLUENT FRENCH
c. £10,000

A unique opportunity has arisen with a famous French crystal company. The successful applicant will have fluent French (80% usage daily) and assist with customer relations.

For the right person the prospects are limitless and training will be given. A challenging position for someone with administrative flair and who enjoys a commercial environment. Responsibility given at an early stage. Communication at all levels and a strong PR element. A developing and exciting role within a cosmopolitan environment. Secretarial skills, including English and French shorthand, essential.

Preferred age: 21+

International
Secretaries
Recruitment Consultants
01-491 7100INTERNATIONAL
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SECRETARY
WITH GOOD GERMAN £11,000

We are an international stock photo agency pleasantly situated near St John's Wood tube. We seek an efficient and experienced secretary with English shorthand and good German who will enjoy an involvement with our exciting international expansion plans. Ideally we would like work processing experience, but would be willing to train a truly excellent candidate without it. Your CV please to Ann Dick.

tony stone worldwide
28 Finchley Road, St John's Wood, London NW8 6ES.

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
(University of London)

The Department of Clinical Ophthalmology, which is based at Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD, requires an

Academic Secretary

for Professor Alan Bird. Applicants should have good shorthand and typing, and a sense of humour. The salary, which will be based on age and experience, is within the range of £7,721 - £9,218 p.a. including London Allowance. 26 days annual leave, plus Bank and Public Holidays.

Job description and application forms obtainable from Mrs E. Hunt, Professorial Unit, Moorfields Eye Hospital, City Road, London EC1V 2PD. Tel: 01-253 3411 x 2253.

FRESH OPPORTUNITY!
£9000+++

Ready to be trained for a new challenge? Join this first class team using your personality to boost your abilities & your personal into a new career. If you have 35wpm+ typing, good spelling & plenty of enthusiasm & sparkle then call us. Superb perks and long holidays.

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PROJECT
ADMINISTRATOR/
SEC

£12,500-£13,000++
25-35. Leading co has a superb opportunity for a Sec with S/H and personal skills, and an interest in computers. Plenty of involvement and scope for an intelligent person who can work on their own initiative.

For full details call Theresa Siller 01 494 8668 (Five Corners)

PA/OFFICER
£15,000 AAE

Top class administrator needed for two directors of young, expanding, prestigious commercial property company/estate agents. Excellent communication and organisational skills essential in the fast paced, highly responsible position. Previous property experience desirable but not necessary.

Contact Emily 935 2335

A City
Presence

PR - £11,500

High-profile esteemed City PR Consultants seek professional assertive individual for an unusual opening within their small highly successful structure. Your front-line role will be diverse - organising press conferences, liaising with the Stock Exchange and senior clients, overseeing a junior secretary for routine work. City experience ideal. Young friendly environment. Spacious airy offices. Excellent performance-linked prospects. Rusty shorthand? Sound keyboard skills? Please call 01-409 1232

Recruitment Consultants
In the Communications Industry

SALES & MARKETING
ASSISTANT
German & French Speaker
£12,500

We are a three year old Joint Venture between a UK and US company, both of whom are leaders in their field. We deal throughout Europe and are now looking for an assistant to help our growing sales effort.

You will be involved with the Company's internal functions as well as with our customers. Providing support to the small sales/marketing team will be your prime responsibility and this can lead to occasional travel in Europe.

We need someone who can speak and write German and French, as well as English. Although we do have a secretary, an ability in German shorthand would be an advantage. We are shortly relocating to a new office building in Wood Green.

Please telephone Janet Johnson on 01-802 4241.

TM

£11-£20,000 p.a.

50% ADMINISTRATION

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SALES ART GALLERIES
PROPERTY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

West End and City locations.
Age 20-25.

Good organisational and secretarial skills required (80/60 wpm).

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm.
LONDON BRUSSELS

6310481

FASHIONABLE RECRUITMENT

£12,000 + PACKAGE

Join this successful group of head-hunters in the West End as Secretary/PA to two Consultants covering the retail industry, specialising in fashion.

A good memory for names and faces is essential, as you will be liaising with clients and candidates at all levels on the telephone and in person. You will need shorthand, audio and WP skills initially, but within twelve months it is envisaged that a junior secretary will join the team, to enable you to become more involved in search and research.

Please telephone Nicci Vaughan

The Finsbury Secretarial Limited

267 Regent Street, London W1R 5DA
Tel: 01-631 0481 (on Oxford Circus)

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SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

International Bank

Ace Secretary

Early - Mid 20's

Package c£13,000 + MGE

If you know what we mean by pressure, and hard work, and excitement, and mucking in, and staying late, and having one of the best jobs in the business - you'll want to know more about this superb opening in Corporate Finance. If your skills, personality and presentation stand up to close scrutiny - ring Joanna Ball for a detailed brief.

01-491 1868

SUPER OPPORTUNITY -
BATTERSEA

£10,000

Prestigious conservatory company, based at superb riverside location, is looking for the following:

SALES SECRETARY

We require excellent WP skills and a pleasant, flexible manner. Product knowledge (or a keen desire to learn) necessary, as this position involves plenty of client contact demonstrating our stunning rooftop showroom. Interesting and varied role - certainly a 5.5 position.

RECEPTIONIST

We are looking for someone with charm, confidence and perfect presentation to welcome our clients both on the telephone and at our offices. Ability to operate WP required as this position will also involve maintaining our mailing list.

Interested? Please telephone Sara Sharp on 01 350 1581. (No Agencies)

LANGUAGES + PERSONNEL IN US BANK

£12,500 + mortgage

Assist the Director of Personnel, liaise with Europe and the US. This offers challenge and involvement for a well groomed experienced PA. Languages + shorthand essential. Call Monica Wuestner.

MARKETING PA £11,000

Organise exhibitions and promotions whilst supporting the export Marketing Manager. You'll enjoy client contact and be more than just a secretary. Good shorthand typing required. Call Pamela Price.

STAFFING SOLUTIONS
01-486 6951

BLUE CHIP

£16,000

Or then the Chairman of a famous name Blue Chip Company seeks a Senior Secretary. You will enjoy a considerable amount of contact with top industrialists and members of government and so should be very socially confident. A solid broad background and 100wpm skills needed.

Please telephone 01-340 3511
Early/fine applications welcomed.

Elizabeth Hunt
Recruitment Consultants
2-3 Bedford Street London WC2

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

SENIOR SECRETARY

Experienced, lively secretary (25+) required to provide secretarial and administrative support to young ambitious sales team of Investment Managers, EC1. WP/computer experience essential. 'A' level education. Ability to organise and manage own department. Excellent salary £12,000+ negotiable.

Please apply (in own handwriting) with CV to:
'Secretarial Vacancy',
CSTC Ltd, 5-9 Hatton Wall,
London EC1N 8HX.

THE SELECT FEW

MacBlain Nash is one of the very few highly selective recruitment consultancies who can offer good PA Shorthand Secretaries, with or without WP skills, immediate and continuous senior level temporary assignments at competitive rates of pay.

Telephone now for further details on 439 0601.
Carrington House, 130 Regent St.,
LONDON W1 Tel: 01-439 0601
(Entrance in Regent Place above Iberia Airways)



MacBlain
NASH
Temporary
Secretaries

SECRETARIAL OPPORTUNITIES

salaries £8,000 - £10,000

We, at the Design Headquarters located in Fulham, are looking for experienced secretaries to join our team of secretarial and administrative staff. The successful applicants will be responsible for wide ranging secretarial and administration duties for the Mother and Child Department, Home Furnishings Buying Team and Garment Buying Team.

There will be plenty of scope for progression, and as well as good secretarial skills, which should include shorthand, you will need first class interpersonal skills and the willingness to take on varied responsibilities.

If you feel that you would fit into our friendly and relaxed working environment please send your C.V. to:
Andrea Mills-Thomas, Personnel Manager,
Laura Ashley Ltd., 27, Bagleys Lane,
Fulham, London, SW6 2AR, or telephone on 01 736 6700 for more details.

FOR A SECRETARIAL LIFE IN LEISURE

If you like working in a creative, sometimes unpredictable, always stimulating environment - come and enjoy the current expansion at SARGENT & POTRIADIS. We are just behind the National Portrait Gallery between Trafalgar Square and Leicester Square.

We are also now the largest architectural practice specialising in leisure, and that means involvement from research studies through design to advising on leisure management so life here is varied as well as hectic. In particular we need:

- ★ PA/Shorthand Secretary for our Engineering Services Division
- ★ PA/Shorthand Secretary for one of our architectural teams
- ★ Part time PA/Shorthand Secretary (hours to be arranged)
- ★ Receptionist/Telephonist

CVs please to: Marion Self or alternatively ring and take part in our open evening on 20th October.
Sargent & Potriadis
3-5 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HA.
Telephone 930 9010

Demanding Role for Versatile Secretary

c.£10,500

Glaxo Pharmaceuticals is one of the world's most successful healthcare companies. At our modern head office in Greenford we have created a new and demanding role for a highly capable and versatile Secretary.

You will have a dual responsibility. To provide a full secretarial service to a senior manager within the Personnel Division and to step in and cover for the secretaries to the Chairman, Managing Director and the Personnel Director in their absence, amounting to some 75 days per year.

It won't be easy. One week you will be managing and planning a wide variety of secretarial and administrative activities within your own department. The following week you will be working at Board level dealing confidently with a quite different workload as though it were your own. You'll need to be versatile to cope with the confidentiality of your position and the high profile you will enjoy within the company.

diplomacy and excellent communication skills will help you to meet changing priorities and the varying demands of this role.

The advantages are obvious. Dealing with people at all levels, you will swiftly acquire a broad perspective on all aspects of the company's business. This degree of involvement and exposure will provide you with invaluable experience for future career development.

Probably in your early 20's, you will have a high standard of shorthand and typing skills ideally supported by formal qualifications. Experience of word processing would be an advantage, however, training can be given.

Don't let this excellent opportunity pass you by. Please send your c.v. to Mrs Carolyn Greene, Personnel Manager, Glaxo Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 891-995 Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0HE or telephone on 01-422 3434 ext. 2602.

Glaxo
Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

GRADUATE BILINGUAL SECRETARY

£Neg

Do you speak either French and/or German? Our client is looking for an enthusiastic secretary with a good knowledge of as many European languages as possible. This is very much a marketing role and although shorthand skills are not necessary the successful applicant will be well groomed, possess excellent communication skills, flexibility and a sense of humour.

All banking/mortgage benefits are offered and preferred rate is early/mid 20's.

For further information please contact Dominique Green.

Jonathan Wren
LONDON BRUSSELS HONG KONG SINGAPORE SYDNEY

PERSONAL ASSISTANT to Director of Research & Development for National Charity

Approx. £10,000 p.a. plus 6 weeks hol.

This post is classified as a management position in salary, status, and conditions, but requires a range of skills including secretarial. The successful candidate will be a graduate, a first rate administrator and a fast and accurate audio typist. In addition they will need to have a full driving licence, a desire to take on individual responsibility for specific projects, and be comfortable working in a dynamic environment where pressure can be high and deadlines are tight. Some very basic knowledge of statistics would also be useful. Based in Walthamstow. Apply in writing with full C.V. to:
Michael Adams, National Council of Y.M.C.A.s
640 Forest Road, London E17 3DZ.
(Closing date Nov. 3)

BUDDING FX DEALER

To £12,000

Move into the high profile world of currency dealing whilst providing PA support to the Deputy Treasurer of a large food and drinks organisation. Learn all the ins and outs of foreign exchange and help raise funds for the company expansion programme. Mid/late 20's. A levels. Shorthand and typing 80/50 wpm.

LOVE+TATE
01 283 0111

MD'S PA

Experienced and responsible Secretary/PA needed mid November for Managing Director of small financial services company. Interesting and varied work in a small friendly office. Area St James's. Salary negotiable.
Please telephone 01 839 5735

Executive Assistant

The Toronto-Dominion Bank, one of the largest Canadian Banks, has been established in London for over 75 years. We now have an opening for an energetic, well organised person with secretarial skills, to administer our busy bond dealing desk. A high degree of initiative and commitment is necessary, but in return this is a position offering involvement and opportunities for progression.

With a minimum of 4 'O' Levels, including Maths and English, it is essential that you have a knowledge of the IBM PC and word processor.

Our generous range of benefits, a competitive salary, and the challenge of this role help make this a very attractive opportunity. Please send your c.v. to Miss Angela Purton, Human Resources Officer, The Toronto-Dominion Bank, Triton Court, 14-18 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DB.
No Agency referrals thank you.

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ROYMARK LIMITED PA FILM AND VIDEO

ROYMARK LIMITED is a production company working primarily in the field of Corporate and TV programming.

After 5 years the position of PA to the Managing Director/Producer has become vacant and therefore an opportunity of key importance exists to join the ROYMARK team. The applicant should have:

- fast and accurate shorthand/typing, good secretarial skills with the ability to work under pressure.
- an attractive personality, able to liaise with clients intelligently, maintaining a sense of humour and professionalism.
- the ability to travel in the UK and overseas, often at very short notice.

If you are able to meet these requirements then you would find considerable scope for involvement and have the opportunity to work on your own initiative in a relaxed atmosphere. Production company experience preferable but not essential. Attractive salary according to age and experience.

Please reply in writing, enclosing a full C.V. to:
Pete Gledhill, Managing Director, ROYMARK LIMITED,
36 Soho Square, London W1P 5DG.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

2001 SPACE ODYSSEY £13,000

Help create tomorrow's world by assisting the Director of a well-known firm of Architects. With a junior secretary you will coordinate a young lively team, organise a hectic schedule of appointments and cope with dozens of queries. Cool unfatigability, 100/60 skills will be needed in a fun, fast-moving environment. Age 23 - 30.

01-629 9323

EXPERIENCED PA

Required by international marketing consultancy and venture capital company to run small busy Chelsea office. Must be well organised, able to work on own initiative and have WP experience. Salary negotiable.

Apply with CV to:
Capital Partners
International,
250 Kings Road,
London SW3 5UE.
Tel: 01 351 4899

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£10-11,000

Childrens Programmes, Newsroom, Features, Press and Publicity, Documentaries, Personnel, Marketing. Fantastic opportunities with major TV Cos. Exc. sec skills - 80 SH Min. Age 21-30.
Call 493 8611
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PERSONNEL

Graduate college leaver secretary to work as 'right hand' to busy Personnel Head of international co SW1. You will need 80 SH/40+ typing, be a good organiser and able to deal at all levels. Salary £9,500.
LONDON TOWN STAFF BUREAU
01 836 1994.

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

£15,000

CHELSEA, CHISWICK OR ACTON - YOUR CHOICE

Three good secretaries - one with German - are needed by three Managing Directors located above.

Two top manufacturing businesses whilst the third is in management consultancy. Each requires the same high calibre person who can spice their personality to their skills thus making a valuable contribution to the day-to-day performances of their companies. Age 25 - 35.

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media MEDIA & ADVERTISING

NEW FRONTIERS £13,000

Our client, an international agency on agency, is looking for a new PA. The ideal candidate will be a graduate, a first rate administrator and a fast and accurate audio typist. In addition they will need to have a full driving licence, a desire to take on individual responsibility for specific projects, and be comfortable working in a dynamic environment where pressure can be high and deadlines are tight. Some very basic knowledge of statistics would also be useful. Based in Walthamstow. Apply in writing with full C.V. to:
Michael Adams, National Council of Y.M.C.A.s
640 Forest Road, London E17 3DZ.
(Closing date Nov. 3)

65 young and WP sources.
01-925 0139
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GERMAN SPEAKING SEC PERSONNEL

A senior manager in the City would like to recruit an experienced sec to help organise the Personnel Dept. Conversational German and good use of shorthand (SH) are required. Earn a competitive salary and generous profit.
Tel: 935 1593

FLUENT FRENCH MARKETING

Train into Marketing. To quality to have a sound secretarial background. Our client deals with Central and Southern Africa - the work is interesting. The secretary must be able to work on her/his own initiative. Supply.
Tel: 935 1593

Architectural Elegance

£12,000 + benefits

Stylish, highly-acclaimed Architects seeks intelligent, mature and socially poised individual to work alongside their charismatic Managing Director in full PA role. Working on a one-to-one basis, the depth of your responsibility will include all diary appointments, travel arrangements and office administration as well as senior level liaison with property VIPs. Energy, enthusiasm and an organised mind essential. Good keyboard skills required. For further details please call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants
to the Communications Industry

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY/PA

with good organisational, shorthand/typing and WP skills for the Chief Executive of a major sporting body in Victoria. This position offers an excellent opportunity for someone with lots of initiative and the ability to become involved in a busy office. Days of job satisfaction and an attractive salary are available for a sports-minded workaholic seeking a new challenge.

Applicants are invited to forward a CV and details of their present salary to:
Tricia Ratcliffe
Squash Racquets Association
Francis House
Francis Street
LONDON SW1P 1DE

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

required for leading firm of Estate Agents. Must have good secretarial skills to include WP and Audio (shorthand not required). Must be experienced, cheerful, calm and able to cope under pressure. Good telephone manner essential.
Please contact Catherine on 01 352 1484/7701.

THE COLLEGE LEAVERS COLUMN

Specialists for the 16-25 year olds

VIP SECURITY - A market leader in VIP security offers an excellent opportunity to join the fast moving dynamic world of international VIP security. Good telephone manner essential. 40-50 wpm (any European language an advantage).

JETSETTING - A UK organisation heavily involved in international air travel, seeks a young secretary to join their friendly yet sophisticated team. Keyboard skills essential (40/50 wpm). Plenty of variety. Discounted travel.

TOP LONDON HOTEL - Internationally famous London Hotel seeks a young secretary for one of their key managers. Demanding but very rewarding. Opportunities to attend golf functions and cocktail parties. Emphasis on training. Keyboard skills (40/50 wpm). Short-hand an advantage.

MAYFAIR BANKERS - Renowned international bankers offer an excellent opportunity for a young secretary (90/40) to join the private clients department. Very bluechip with the emphasis on making a career in banking.

WALL STREET BROKERS - A Wall Street investment house (based in Central London) seeks a young secretary to join their young successful trading team. Very fast, busy environment. An opportunity to move out of secretarial within 18 months.

01-499 9175
Finesse
APPOINTMENTS LTD

SECRETARY/GENERAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

City stockbrokers are seeking capable secretary (21+) with knowledge of WP and company accounts. Benefits include BUPA + generous annual bonus.
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Mick Cleary traces one man's journey into the unknown world of a new code

Holmes discovers the going was never meant to be easy

The typical agony aunt is not usually 6ft 11in tall and 14st 14lb of raw muscle. But then, Terry Holmes never was the typical agony aunt. In recent weeks the fat cheque-books that lured Holmes to Bradford Northern have been dangling more tantalizingly than ever in front of other potential recruits from the Valleys.

Some, such as Stuart Evans, formerly of Neath and now of St Helens, made it all the way and banked their cheques; others, such as David Bishop, of Pontypool, did not. Inevitably, as a man who made the transition successfully, Holmes is constantly approached for advice. "I tell them that if they want to come they have to come lock, stock and barrel. It's no use just taking the money for 80 minutes of hard labour. To make a success of it you have to integrate yourself totally."

Holmes's first attempt at integration lasted precisely 14 minutes. The place was the Station Road ground, Swinton, the date Sunday December 5, 1985, and the occasion, Holmes's baptism in Rugby League, having signed for Bradford Northern for £80,000 five days earlier.

It took two years to entice him north

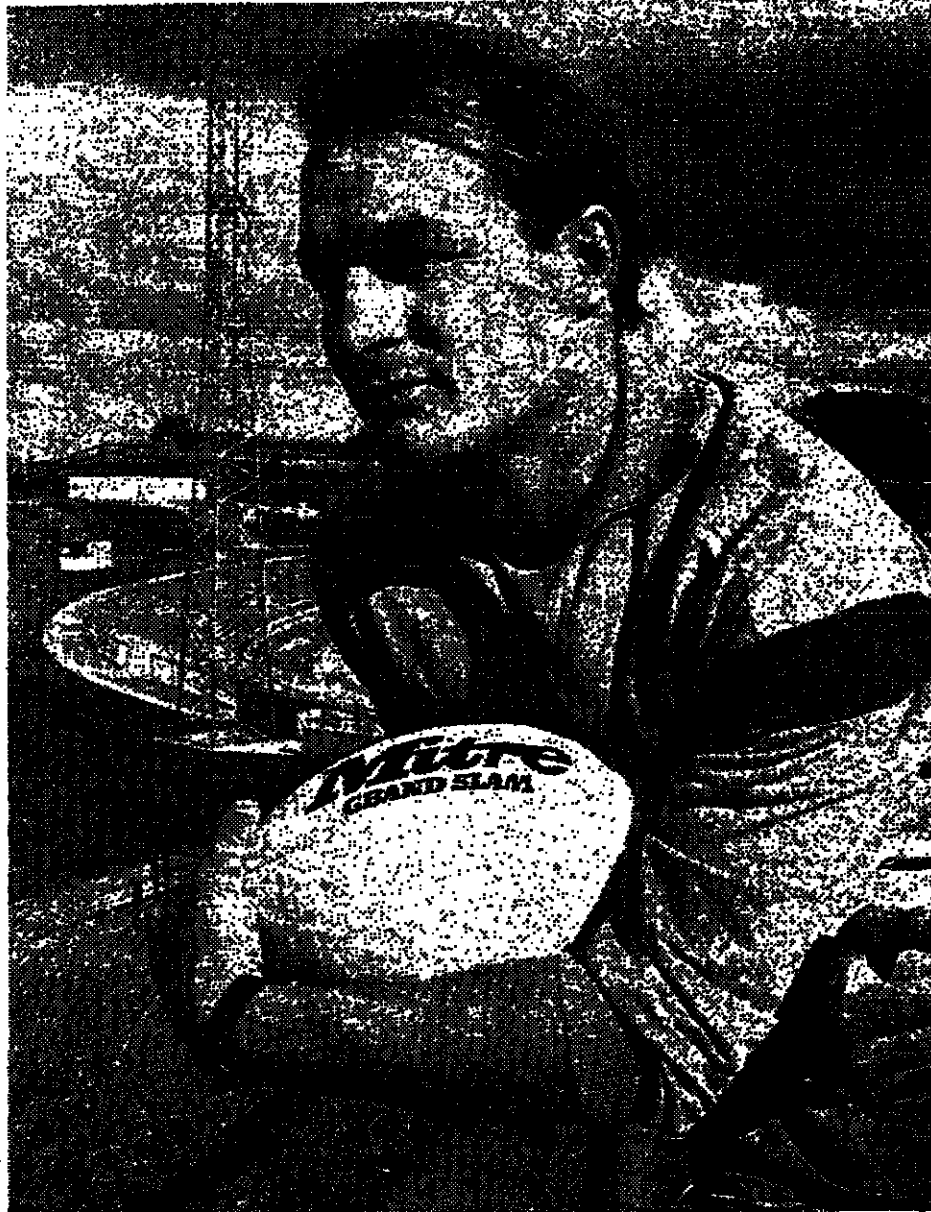
Holmes was forced to leave the field, clutching his shoulder, acutely aware that the world and his wife were watching. "Told you so. Always knew he was a physical liability. Bradford has been taken for a ride."

It had taken Northern two years of persistence to entice one of Rugby Union's greatest players north: seemingly it had taken less than a quarter of an hour to lose him. When an A-team match at Batley six weeks later followed the same script as his maiden performance, everyone prepared to write the sporting obituary of Terry Holmes.

In it they would have recalled Holmes's awesome presence on the rugby field, which began with his home town club, Cardiff, when he was 16; how, at 21, he replaced the irreplaceable when he succeeded Gareth Edwards in the Welsh team. Cardiff back row men would sheepishly admit how they used to pack down at a defending five metre scrum, fingers crossed, praying that Holmes would not be coming down their side.

The record books would testify to his scoring prowess: 123 tries in 195 games for Cardiff and nine tries in 25 international appearances, five of them as captain.

The obituarist never had a chance, really. Holmes was determined to prove the



Sunny prospect: Holmes feels at home now in the League (Photograph: Barry Wilkinson)

sceptics wrong. The motives for fighting on were born out of his working-class upbringing — a fierce sense of pride, a desire to achieve, and a touching, if untold, loyalty to one's employers.

"I said at the beginning of the three-year contract that I intended seeing it out. I wasn't going to let people down just like that. Besides, it is a job, and if you jacked in a business every time you hit a snag, then you'd never make good."

It is still too soon to gauge whether Holmes has, or indeed will, make good. He has only had one season's apprenticeship and that truncated by a knee operation. "Just vacuuming out some of the rubbish," he says blithely. It has been a year though which he has he's relished, adapting to a new sport in a new environment.

"There was a lot to learn: repositioning after tackles, much straighter running, far more head-on tackling, (I've quite taken to shoulder pads) and constantly being alert during the course of a match."

CYCLING

French accent on speed

By Peter Bryan

Malcolm Elliott, winner of this year's Milk Race and three stages in the Nissan Classic in Ireland, which finished last week, flew to Australia yesterday for his last race with two of his ANC-Halfords team, Graham Jones and Steve Jones, before joining the French-based squad, Fagor.

The three, supported by an unsponsored French professional, Philippe Laurent, compete in the nine-day Sun Tour, which starts in Melbourne on Saturday. Elliott won the event in 1985 and finished third last year.

His sprinting strength, evident in the Nissan race when he repeatedly beat Sean Kelly, will be exploited by Fagor next year in both the one-day classics and the early season stage races in France and Spain.

Fagor's even bigger catch is Stephen Roche, the Irish world champion and winner this year of the Tour of Italy and France.

Roche, like Elliott, will join the team in mid-January for at least a fortnight's training in Spain, where a familiar face will be that of Sean Yates, the Sussex rider who won a stage in the Nissan and has been in Fagor colours this year.

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Holmes has recently switched to loose forward, a move that many believe will help him realize his potential. Holmes's imposing, granite-like build and all-round footballing ability are more suited to the creative role of loose forward. Indeed, even though it was five months since his last appearance, he won the man of the match award in a 19-12 victory at Hull Kingston Rovers two weeks ago.

He is comfortable on a League field

It is only now that he feels comfortable on a Rugby League field. "I was too tense last year, always worried about making mistakes, or having to consult my A-Z of where to stand. In the few games since I changed position I felt much more confidence, playing more by instinct and enjoying it enormously as a result."

"There's no doubt that the two codes are a lot different, so

MOTOR SPORT

Bell moves to rallying

By Andrew Longmore

Derek Bell, Britain's former world sports car champion, will drive a Vauxhall Astra GTE in the RAC Lombard Rally next month. It will be Bell's first major rally, and he will tackle it after competing in just two other rallies — a club event 10 years ago and the Cambrian Rally in Wales this weekend.

"I'll be as green as grass," the twice world champion and five-times winner of Le Mans said at the unveiling of his car yesterday. "But I have always wanted to do a major rally and though people warned me that the Lombard was not a good place for a beginner, Vauxhall offered me a drive."

Bell, aged 44, and Mike Nicholson, his co-driver, will be part of a six-car Vauxhall-Opel entry in the Lombard, which also includes the British drivers, Malcolm Wilson, Andrew Wood and David Metcalfe.

ENCOURAGING STAYERS TO ENSURE BALANCE OF RACING

Breeder's must not yield to fashion

JOHN HISLOP, the noted journalist and historian, discusses the implications of changing patterns in modern racing

influences of speed and stamina created a sound balance in the breed: the via media has always proved a successful precept in all aspects of English life.

Between the two wars, the Ascot Gold Cup drew horses of the highest calibre, even Derby winners, the last of these to win the Gold Cup being Ocean Swell as a four-year-old in 1945.

From then on a gradual transition has occurred. First, the Derby no longer stands alone above races at a mile and a half for three-year-olds; both the Irish Derby and the French equivalent, the Prix du Jockey Club, are comparable prizes.

Second, the lack of enthusiasm of owners and breeders for stayers has downgraded the runners in the Ascot Gold Cup.

This is due to the international trend of devaluing long-distance races and shortening them, the most notable example being the Grand Prix de Paris.

One of the chief attractions of English racing is its variety, including tests at all distances, which appeals to the public and benefits the breed.

English racegoers would not tolerate the stereotyped boredom of American racing and, as the famous Italian owner-breeder Federico Tesio declared, the pedigree of a champion racehorse counts for nothing unless it is accompanied by stamina.

It is therefore imperative that breeders should produce stayers as well as fast horses if the merit of the thoroughbred and variety

the main target for two-year-olds in the second half of the season, rather than the seven-furlong Dewhurst Stakes a fortnight later and now the preferred choice.

This goes against Darwin's principle and his co-driver, will be part of a six-car Vauxhall-Opel entry in the Lombard, which also includes the British drivers, Malcolm Wilson, Andrew Wood and David Metcalfe.

Since a true classic contender must have the speed to win at six furlongs as a two-year-old, there is no point in racing him or her further at this stage.

It is a fact that the champion sprinter is not necessarily the fastest horse in training, as the latter may be running in the classics or other races at longer distances — the fastest horse the late Tommy Weston ever rode was the St Leger winner Fairway.

Many years ago an experienced and successful owner-breeder remarked to me: "In racing and breeding, take a look around at what everyone else is doing and do the opposite."

There is wisdom in this philosophy. The Turf is an area of fierce competition and to follow the table in it is costly and can lead to mediocrity rather than superiority.

The older order changeth, but not always for the better. While support for stayers must not lapse, there is a case for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster reverting to six furlongs and fashion moving from the Dewhurst back to the Middle Park.

Until recently, the Middle Park Stakes of six furlongs was

GOLF

Goliath status less daunting in the match-play battle

By Mitchell Platt, Golf Correspondent

Severiano Ballesteros and Sandy Lyle, two Goliaths of modern-day golf, face the kind of opponents in the first round of the Suntory World Match-Play Championship starting at Wentworth tomorrow who would in most other sports be categorized as Davids.

For Ballesteros, four times the winner, although unseeded on this occasion, was yesterday drawn to meet Katsunari Takahashi, of Japan, and Lyle, three times a finalist, will meet the Hawaiian, David Ishii.

To most observers, Ballesteros and Lyle would appear to have about as much chance of losing as Liverpool would have against Skeithersdale.

Yet the intriguing aspect of match-play golf is its unpredictability. Moreover, Takahashi and Ishii possess records that suggest they will not simply be cannon-fodder for Ballesteros and Lyle. Takahashi has won nine times on the Japanese circuit and Ishii, with three wins this year, was, until two weeks ago, top of the Japanese Order of Merit.

Takahashi, aged 37, is attempting to follow in the footsteps of his compatriot, Isao Aoki, who won in 1978. He is also seeking a unique double because he won the Japanese Match-Play Championship earlier this year. Takahashi, a diligent student of golf theory, is sponsored by Asics Tiger. The company motto is "Anima Sana in Corpore Sano" which means "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body". And he believes that in

First round draw

M McHugh (SA) v H Clark (GB)
Winner to play G Norman (Aus)
A Lyle (GB) v D Lyle (US)
Winner to play G Simpson (US)
P Faldo (GB) v K Takahashi (Japan)
Winner to play S Simpson (US)
I Woosnam (GB) v S Randolph (US)
Winner to play N Faldo (GB)

winning the Japanese event he discovered the truth of that saying.

Ballesteros cannot recall playing with Takahashi. That, however, will not stop the Spaniard from treating his opponent with the utmost respect. "Golf is not like tennis or boxing," Ballesteros said. "In those sports the best

win 90 per cent of the time. That is not the way in golf."

Lyle, too, will observe the match-play code against Ishii, which in his case means that he is likely to favour a cautious approach, relying heavily on his one-iron, even if the Wentworth course continues to play to its entire length following the recent rain.

In the other first round matches Howard Clark, who has replaced Bernhard Langer, will meet Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, and Ian Woosnam tackles Sam Randolph, of the United States. Woosnam will want to win because he would then, as Europe's No. 1 money-winner, have the opportunity of playing against Nick Faldo, the Open champion. A success would give Clark a crack at Greg Norman, the holder.

If that is not sufficient to whet the taste-buds, then Lyle and Ballesteros are seeded to meet Larry Mize, the United States Masters champion, and Scott Simpson, the United States Open champion, respectively, in the second round.

Seventh heaven for Lane

By Mel Webb

Barry Lane has not had it easy since becoming a tournament professional 11 years ago. In that time he has had to slog his way through the European Tour qualifying school seven times, and probably regards La Manga, the venue for this annual tortoise of the young hopeful, as his second home.

But things have taken a dramatic turn for the better this year. A string of quietly impressive performances have pushed Lane up to 26th in the money list, and yesterday he picked up the biggest cheque of his life when he took £20,000 by winning the Equity and Law Challenge at Royal Mid-Surrey.

The tournament, for which players have qualified at 23 European Tour events this season, takes the account of years or worse, but gives them a point for each birdie and two for an

eagle. Lane, aged 27, won with 14 birdies in the 36 holes, one in front of Bill Malley, aged 33, of the United States, whose determined challenge came to an end when he missed a six-foot putt at the last hole.

Lane, who was joint leader overnight on eight points, picked up his first point of the day when he splashed his way out of a bunker on the second and holed a short putt. A 15-foot putt on the fourth took him into double figures, but he really made his mark when he drove the green at the 305-yard seventh and holed a 40-foot putt for an eagle two and two points.

Three more birdies in four holes from the turn, including 10-foot putts at the 12th and 13th, put him in the lead, and he then had to wait over two hours while Malley moved through

the field with a burst of six birdies to the turn.

Malley, from San Francisco, who drove trucks for a living until turning professional three years ago, came into the tournament only as a late reserve after flying in from Germany on Sunday night. He moved to within a point of sharing the lead when he drove the green at the 265-yard 13th, but then did not have another genuine chance until that missed putt at the last green.

Still, he had the considerable consolation of earning £10,000 for two days' work, "who ever was it who said that it is better to travel than to arrive?"

LEADING FINAL SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 1. B Lane, 16; 2. W Malley (US), 14; 3. N Coles, 12; 4. W Longmuir, 12; 5. R Harriman (US), 11; 6. J Brown, 10; 7. J Russell, 10; 8. P Alder, 10; 9. D J Russell, 10; 10. P Walker, 10; 11. J Russell, 10; 12. P Walker, 10; 13. J Russell, 10; 14. P Walker, 10; 15. J Russell, 10; 16. P Walker, 10; 17. J Russell, 10; 18. P Walker, 10; 19. J Russell, 10; 20. P Walker, 10; 21. J Russell, 10; 22. P Walker, 10; 23. J Russell, 10; 24. P Walker, 10; 25. J Russell, 10; 26. P Walker, 10; 27. J Russell, 10; 28. P Walker, 10; 29. J Russell, 10; 30. P Walker, 10; 31. J Russell, 10; 32. P Walker, 10; 33. J Russell, 10; 34. P Walker, 10; 35. J Russell, 10; 36. P Walker, 10; 37. J Russell, 10; 38. P Walker, 10; 39. J Russell, 10; 40. P Walker, 10; 41. J Russell, 10; 42. P Walker, 10; 43. J Russell, 10; 44. P Walker, 10; 45. J Russell, 10; 46. P Walker, 10; 47. J Russell, 10; 48. P Walker, 10; 49. J Russell, 10; 50. P Walker, 10; 51. J Russell, 10; 52. 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England's descent into disorder

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Rawalpindi

With a succession of errors so elementary that a coit side might have been ashamed of them, England presented Pakistan with victory by 18 runs in the World Cup here yesterday. Needing 240 to win in their 50 overs, they first got themselves behind the clock, although Pakistan were without Imran's bowling, let alone his presence, and then threw away their wickets with reckless abandon.

England should by now be needing only to beat Sri Lanka twice to be virtually assured of a place in the semi-finals. Instead, they have fallen behind Pakistan, who are good front runners, and been caught by West Indies.

Yet it was not the loss of yesterday's match so much as the way it happened which was so galling. England had done well enough in the field and for their first wicket Gooch and Broad made 52 in 14 overs, a partnership which left Pakistan there for the slaughter.

With Imran off the field (he had begun the day suffering from what is more commonly an Englishman's complaint in these parts and was then hit on the knee while batting), Pakistan were going to have to conjure 10 overs from their part-time bowlers.

The crowd, a capacity 17,000, had fallen silent in their support of the home team. Imran was reduced even to sending a message out to Miandad, acting in his stead, advising him to bring Gooch into the attack forthwith. Miandad, however, and Gooch was immediately bowled by Qadir's quicker ball.

Rather than Gooch choosing this as the moment to come in himself, Robinson walked out as though going to the gallows, fully helmeted, although it was the flattest of pitches and the flattest bowler he faced in the 21 overs it took him to make 33 was military

World Cup tables

Group A

	P	W	L	T	Pts	Rate
Australia	2	2	0	0	4	5.00
New Zealand	1	1	0	0	2	4.00
India	1	0	1	0	0	0.00
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	0.00

REMAINING MATCHES (India): Today (Rawalpindi): India v New Zealand, Oct 17 (Bangalore); India v Zimbabwe, Oct 18 (Dhaka); Australia v New Zealand, Oct 22 (Dhaka); India v Australia, Oct 23 (Dhaka); New Zealand v Zimbabwe, Oct 25 (Ahmedabad); India v Zimbabwe, Oct 27 (Chandigarh); Australia v New Zealand, Oct 28 (Chandigarh); Australia v Zimbabwe, Oct 31 (Mauritius); India v New Zealand, Oct 31 (Mauritius).

Top two teams qualify for semi-finals.

Group B

	P	W	L	T	Pts	Rate
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	4	5.00
West Indies	1	1	0	0	2	4.00
England	1	0	1	0	0	0.00
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	0	0.00

REMAINING MATCHES (Pakistan): Today (Rawalpindi): Pakistan v West Indies, Oct 17 (Rawalpindi); Pakistan v Sri Lanka, Oct 20 (Karachi); Pakistan v England, Oct 21 (Karachi); India v Sri Lanka, Oct 25 (Ahmedabad); Pakistan v Sri Lanka, Oct 26 (Ahmedabad); Pakistan v West Indies, Oct 28 (Mauritius); England v Sri Lanka, Oct 30 (Karachi); Pakistan v West Indies, Oct 30 (Karachi).

Top two teams qualify for semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS: New & Lahore: Winners Group B v Runners-up Group A, Nov 5 (Bombay); Winners Group A v Runners-up Group B, Nov 6 (Bombay).

FINAL: Nov 8, Calcutta.

medium. When, off the last ball of the 25th over, Broad was bowled by what to him was a leg break, England still needed 148.

Salim Malik and Mansoor Akhtar, Pakistan's two make-shift bowlers, were about to get away with 45 runs from their 10 overs. But England should still have gone on to win once Robinson had been bowled, having a swing at Qadir, and Lamb had joined Gooch. Robinson was out to the fourth ball of the 35th over. When the 43rd over began England's target was down to 54 with seven wickets left. Gooch was 43 and looking to have the measure of the situation.

In the event, the rest was too awful for words. Gooch, making a lot of room to hit Salim Jaffer past cover point, was bowled. Poor Gooch, he carries half the batting and will have been disappointed with the stroke.

The next blunder was to send in Pringle, who hit

everything either to mid-on or mid-off and is like a London bus between the wickets - all right once he has got under way. In five overs he made eight runs off 14 balls besides sharing in the running out of Emburey and then running out himself.

The decisive over was the 47th. England were 206 for four when it started (Lamb 30, Pringle seven) and 211 for seven when it finished (Pringle seven, DeFreitas nought). It had taken seven of the Pakistan side to decide who should bowl it.

Qadir had one over left and the vote went to him. It led to his being made man of the match. He had Lamb leg-before, sweeping, and Downton caught at the wicket off a skier and between those two wickets Emburey was run out.

Having been stung on the knee by a wasp, Qadir had been dashing backwards and forwards to the pavilion and he was most of the way there again, thinking that he had bowled the last ball of his last over when, in fact, he had one still left.

This was typical of the confusion that reigned. Pakistan no more knew what to do next than England did. They became liable for a fine under the rules of the competition when three hours 35 minutes were up and England's innings was still in its 49th over. But no one seemed to mind, nor I think, should they have done.

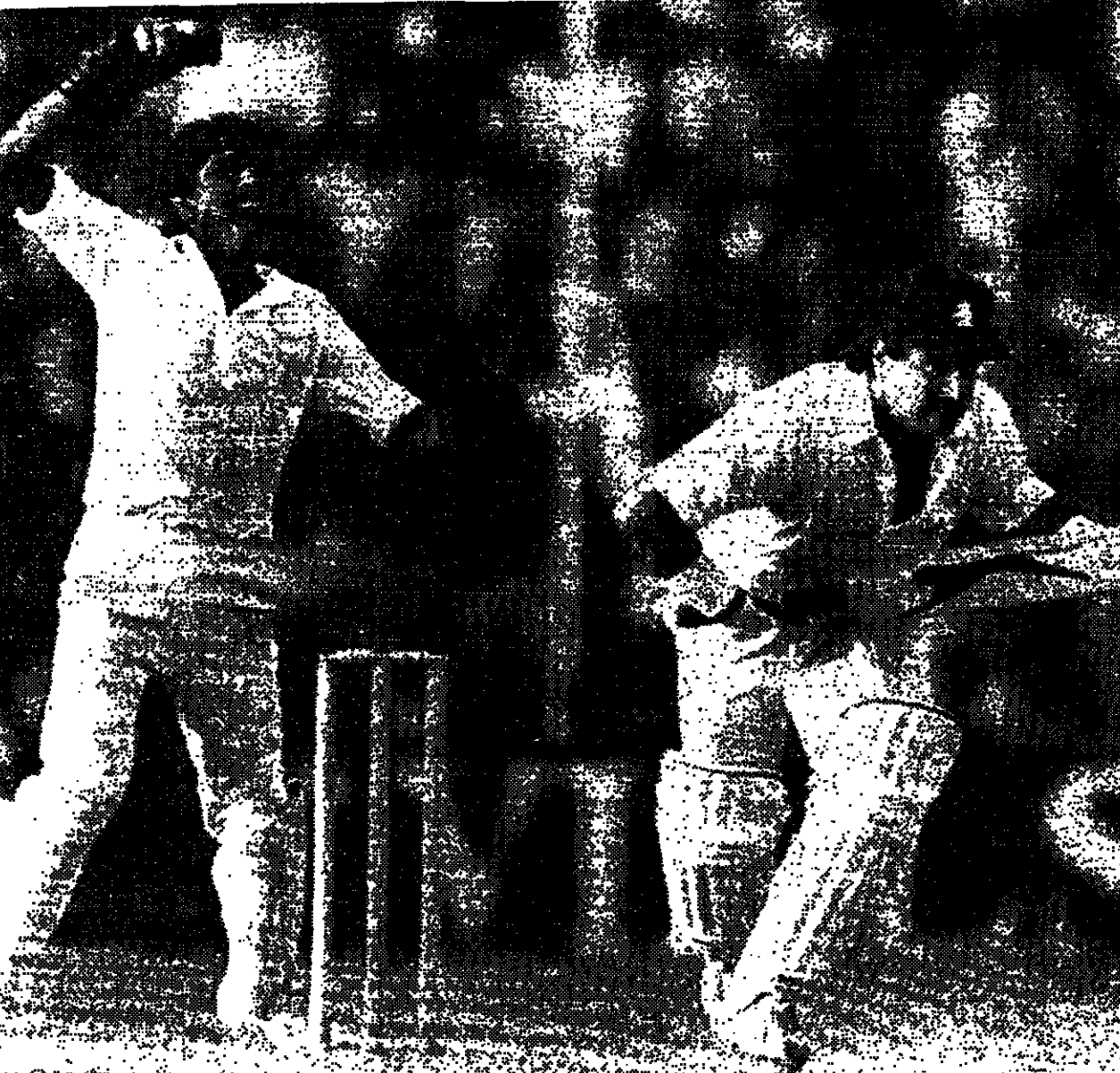
In effecting their remarkable escape, Pakistan deserved just a little licence. It was in the 49th over that they won, a second brilliant throw from long leg by Wasim Akram accounting for Foster and Small then falling leg-before.

Gooch had won the toss and the difference between England's bowling now and against West Indies last week was that Emburey was 29 runs more expensive and Pringle 29 runs less so. This was partly because Emburey was entrusted with the last over, which cost 15. Foster, who bowled it last time, having finished his 10 overs quite early in the piece for fear of a strained knee stiffening up.

Salim Malik and Miandad had added 61 for the third wicket and were beginning to branch out with 20 overs left when Crafter, the only Australian umpire on the panel, gave Miandad leg-before to DeFreitas. Miandad was aiming to leg and it looked neither plumb out nor palpably not out.

Miandad, though, was keen to dispute the decision, not least with the England side as they closed in to congratulate DeFreitas. Never one to miss the opportunity of a slanging match, he spent some time arguing the toss before being calmed down by Salim Malik, his partner, and ushered away to the pavilion by Athey, who was substituting for Lamb.

I am not saying that, as Miandad turned on them, the England players failed to coin some choice phrases of their own. But the main responsibility for what happened was Miandad's and it was a lamentable business.



Feeling the sting of Qadir: Lamb leg-before to the Pakistan bowler who, despite being stung by a wasp, was man of the match

Fate smiles again on edgy Border

From Alan Lee, Madras

Allan Border has every reason to believe the fates smile on him in Madras. Twice before, at Test level, he has made centuries here after being dropped on nought; yesterday, even as Zimbabwe were treading on exposed Australian nerves, he was allowed a life when he had scored only one.

It was all that was needed to restore a crumbling class barrier. Border, as edgy as anyone, did not give another chance until 20 for two had become 133 for two. Thereafter, this was a patient mismatch, on a pitch too slow and too low to be ideal.

The Zimbabweans bowled competently, at times admirably, and in the field they were every bit as good as their reputations hinted. When set to chase 235, however, they did not get in a single blow. It might have been so different but for that moment when Border returned a straightforward chance to Malcolm Jarvis, who had never previously played at this level. Jarvis, mortified, put it down.

Boon and Jones had gone early as Curran settled into a miserly line. Border and Marsh went in quick succession after their stand of 113, and with O'Donnell failing,

Zimbabwe brightened again before Waugh took 45 off 37 balls and snatched back the initiative. McDermott and Reid permitted no freedom to the openers, and May, in his international debut, dismissed Houghton with his seventh delivery; only Curran looked armed, and remotely dangerous.

AUSTRALIA
G R Marsh c Curran b Shah 62
D C Boon c Houghton b Curran 2
D M Jones run out 45
A J Pycroft run out 11
A R Border c Shah b Butchart 67
S R Waugh run out 45
P O'Donnell run out 15
G C Dyer c Patterson b Butchart 27
L Taylor not out 17
C J McDermott c Brown b Curran 1
T B A May run out 1
Extras (w 1) 2
Total (8 wickets) 235
B A Field did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-20, 3-133, 4-143, 5-155, 6-222, 7-228, 8-230, 9-233, 10-235.
BOWLING: Curran 8-25-2, Jarvis 10-40-40, Rawson 8-25-2, Butchart 10-1-59, 2-23, 3-23, 4-23, 5-23, 6-23, 7-23, 8-23, 9-23, 10-23.

ZIMBABWE
R D Brown b O'Donnell 3
G A Patterson run out 16
U J Houghton c O'Donnell b May 11
A J Pycroft run out 11
K M Curran b O'Donnell 30
A C Miller c May b May 15
A H Shah b McDermott 2
P W E Rawson b Field 15
P R Shepherd c Jones b O'Donnell 6
M P Jarvis not out 1
Extras (w 2, b 3, w 3, n 1) 1
Total (42.4 overs) 139
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-27, 3-41, 4-44, 5-78, 6-97, 7-97, 8-124, 9-137.
BOWLING: McDermott 7-1-13, 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-13, 5-13, 6-13, 7-13, 8-13, 9-13, 10-13.
O'Donnell 4-1-39, 4-1-39, 5-13, 6-13, 7-13, 8-13, 9-13, 10-13.
Taylor 5-0-25-4, May 8-0-29-2, Taylor 5-0-25-4, May 8-0-29-2, Taylor 5-0-25-4, May 8-0-29-2.

Umpires: D R Shepherd (Eng) and Khizar Hayat (Pak).

Richards hits 181 in W Indies record

From Alan Lee, Madras

Indian captain was finally out trying to hit de Mel out of the stadium, caught by Mahanama.

Sri Lanka set off to climb the mountain of runs as they meant to get them. Mahanama, who scored 86 against Pakistan last Thursday, and Kuruppu hit 24 off the first two overs. Then Mahanama was caught behind off Walsh for 12 and Patterson had Kuruppu leg before for 14 and the spark of resistance died.

WEST INDIES
D L Haynes b Curran 105
C A Best b Ramesh 18
R S Mahanama c Kuruppu b Patterson 8
V A Richards c Mahanama b de Mel 181
A L Logie not out 5
S Harper not out 5
Extras (b 4, w 4, w 4) 12
Total (4 wickets) 300
C L Hooper, P J Dwyer, W K M Benjamin, C A Walsh and S P Patterson did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-45, 3-227, 4-343.
BOWLING: John 10-1-48-0, Ramesh 8-0-58-2, Anura 10-1-48-0, de Mel 10-1-48-0, de Silva 6-0-35-0, Ramesh 2-18-0, Gurusinha 4-0-43-1.

WEST INDIES had earlier been on 45 for two and Ratnayake was on a hat-trick, bowling to Richards. Off the previous two balls Best played on for 18 and Richards was caught behind without scoring. Sri Lanka had to wait for another 182 runs for their next success.

Richards, then joined by Logie, shared in a stand of 116 in only 58 minutes. The West

Indies captain was finally out trying to hit de Mel out of the stadium, caught by Mahanama.

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A L Logie not out 5
S Harper not out 5
Extras (b 4, w 4, w 4) 12
Total (4 wickets) 300
C L Hooper, P J Dwyer, W K M Benjamin, C A Walsh and S P Patterson did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-45, 3-227, 4-343.
BOWLING: John 10-1-48-0, Ramesh 8-0-58-2, Anura 10-1-48-0, de Mel 10-1-48-0, de Silva 6-0-35-0, Ramesh 2-18-0, Gurusinha 4-0-43-1.

WEST INDIES had earlier been on 45 for two and Ratnayake was on a hat-trick, bowling to Richards. Off the previous two balls Best played on for 18 and Richards was caught behind without scoring. Sri Lanka had to wait for another 182 runs for their next success.

Richards, then joined by Logie, shared in a stand of 116 in only 58 minutes. The West

Indies captain was finally out trying to hit de Mel out of the stadium, caught by Mahanama.

Wembley shoots from new angle

By Ian Stafford

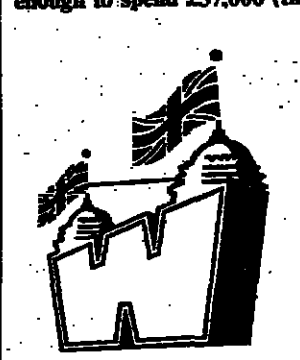
"You should allow 90 minutes to roast Turkey," says independent radio advertising in the novel format of a recipe for England's European Championship qualifying match at Wembley tonight. But, with just 16,000 tickets sold by the eve of England's crucial game against Turkey, one could question whether the Football Association and Wembley have spent wisely in investing £50,000 on advertising the occasion. Everything, however, is believed to be in hand.

The advertising agency concerned with the big sell, however, allows two months to make sure they produce a winning recipe to entice a substantial crowd through Wembley's turnstiles. "We are very hopeful that we will break the walk-up record at Wembley," David Griffiths, Wembley Stadium's general manager, said yesterday.

By that he means that more than 35,000 people, the walk-up figure for the Brazil match last May, are expected to buy tickets on the gate. "Bobby Robson has made it clear that a large crowd lifts his players and we think his appeal will work," Griffiths added. "A crowd of 50,000 should be here but anything above that figure will be a bonus."

The expected 50,000 was worked out in August when a marketing executive from Wembley, Ted Croker, the FA secretary and Glen Kirtan, the Press and marketing officer, and Martin Kirsch, from the advertising agency, D'Arcy Masius Benton and Bowles, outlined their strategy. The plan, according to Kirsch, was "aimed at getting as many bums on seats as possible."

This is a relatively new but important aspect to any international football match played at Wembley. The concept of employing an advertising agency to sell football is still only just over two years old, but the FA takes it seriously enough to spend £37,000 (the



remaining £13,000 out of the £50,000 budget is provided by Wembley) to ensure that sizeable crowds are produced. "The fact that we got 92,000 people to watch the Brazil match when it was televised live shows that our advertising push is a successful venture," Kirtan confirmed.

The Brazil match launched DMB & B's debut as Wembley's salesman and indicated a different approach to marketing that can be seen by the recipe to "roast a Turkey, by adding a little bit of Sanson and a blend of Robson." The theme for the Brazil showpiece was a football inside two umbrellas with the logo "England versus Brazil - can we do it again?"

The Brazil net idea did not amuse the South American visitors. "The Brazilians thought the advertisement was aggressive," Kirsch, the 34-year-old account director for DMB & B, admitted. "But when it was explained to them that it was an indication of the English sense of humour, they then saw the funny side."

What Turkey thinks of the pre-match advertisements is yet to be discovered, but so far as Kirsch is concerned, his agency have come up with the right ingredients. Since taking over Wembley's account from the Harrison agency for the Brazil match, everyone concerned is delighted with the results.

"Other advertising agencies have always treated football supporters as morons but we like to appeal to the typical English supporter's sense of humour," Kirsch, a self-confessed "yippie" who has gatemashed the terraces of Tottenham Hotspur. "The other agencies' main problem was that none of them were in love with football so they could not possibly understand the terrace wit."

"For us an international football match at Wembley is almost the perfect product to sell. Advertising entertainment in general has blown up in the last three years because of dwindling crowds and we need to sell a football game like a show. It is a fantastic opportunity for creative work."

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BP share likely to cost 33p

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Renewal month (if applicable)

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Nicholas looks set for Toulon

By Dennis Signy

Charlie Nicholas, the erstwhile favourite Arsenal's North Wales looks set to join the exodus of British players abroad in the next 24 hours by signing for Toulon, the French first division club.

While Nicholas trained yesterday, Ken Friar, Arsenal's managing director, and Jermain Anderson, the player's agent, both confirmed that negotiations were at an advanced stage. Friar has been to the South of France to discuss a deal that should result in Arsenal recouping most of their £750,000 outlay to Celtic for the Scottish international in the summer of 1983.

Although Nicholas signed a new one-year contract at Highbury in the close season, he was dropped by the manager, George Graham, after the 2-0 defeat at Queen's Park Rangers in the third game of the season on August 22 and has since languished in the reserves. In his absence Arsenal have won eight games, the last seven without conceding a goal, drawn one and risen to third in the first division.

With Perry Groves, the hard-running youngster wearing Nicholas's No. 10 shirt - he was Graham's first signing for the Gunners, a modest £70,000 investment from Colchester - Arsenal must now regard the Scot as expendable.

Toulon have obviously noted the success of the Scottish players, Maurice Johnston, at Nantes, and Eric Black, at Metz, while the England international, Glenn Hoddle and Mark Hateley, have helped take Monaco to the top of their league. If Nicholas does sign, his first game for Toulon will be at Lille on Saturday.

Webb's graft ousts Hoddle's art

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Neil Webb has become the thirteenth Englishman to be chosen by Bobby Robson to line up in midfield. The figure might be considered ominous but even the superstitious cannot ignore two other statistics which suggest that neither he nor his colleagues will require any luck at Wembley tonight.

Of all the 32 nations in the European Championship qualifying competition, only one has yet to concede a goal. That is England. Only one has yet to score a goal. That is Turkey. No deep analysis is necessary to see that once Robson's side takes the lead, victory should be inevitable. Robson has, therefore, selected his most attacking formation with Barnes manoeuvring down the left flank and Steven acting as Waddle's understudy on the right. Against the West Germans last month, the same design proved to be disastrous.

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generously, and potentially humiliatingly, thin. Hence the introduction of the 24-year-old Webb.

"He is an all-purpose player," Robson said yesterday. "He can graft, a job which is particularly important with the two men out wide, he can work with Bryan Robson and he can score goals." Hoddle's substitute in Düsseldorf, he has now taken his place and perhaps more than temporarily.

Hoddle has been the most consistent member of the national team apart from Sanson over the last two years but his international career may have been buried by the Germans. England's manager suggested otherwise but to have said anything less would have been construed as dishonourable.

"I had a long talk with him to explain why I was leaving him out. I owed him that. He has had an extended run and no one appreciates his talent more than me. He is one of our best and most skilful players and this is not the end of him. He still has an important part to play in our attempt to qualify and in the finals should we get there."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Blocked move

Record set

Butcher signs

Butcher: opener on the move

Record set

Butcher signs

Blocked move

Record set

Butcher signs

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